

FRIDAY

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FRIDAY

**30p**

EVERY WEEKDAY

Blair seeks to avert march clash

## Ulster urged to hear voice of reason

By MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR flew into Northern Ireland last night on a high-risk mission to avert a looming confrontation that could yet destroy the province's fragile peace.

On a day when loyalist extremists burnt ten Roman Catholic churches, destroying three of them, and with two days left before the explosive Drumcree Orange parade, the Prime Minister implored Protestants and Catholics to listen to the "voice of reason".

Standing at one of the destroyed churches, he said he was striving to "build a future that leaves these acts of barbarism and violence behind us". There was an "overwhelming desire among the majority of people in Northern Ireland to embrace a different type of future, to usher in a different type not just of politics but of relations between communities that have been divided."

He said later that he had come not to negotiate about Drumcree, but to encourage. "I hope it is possible that people will listen to what I am saying, which is that the voice of reason should prevail, and that this process which has come so far and done so well and stepped over so many hurdles can carry on because it does have the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland behind it."

Mr Blair's arrival marked a sharpening of behind-the-scenes efforts by the British and Irish governments, political, church and community leaders to avert a disaster this weekend. Even President Clinton has joined the quest, making telephone calls to key players from Air Force One as he continues his tour of China. The Prime Minister went directly from the church to the



David Trimble at one of the burnt churches, near Banbridge, co Down, yesterday

parliament buildings at Stormont to meet David Trimble, Northern Ireland's new First Minister, and Seamus Mallon, the Deputy First Minister. Also in the buildings were leaders of the Orange Order which is determined to defy a ban on 1,500 of its members marching down the predominantly nationalist Portadown Road. Later he was meeting Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and the leaders of the four main churches.

Unionist sources denied suggestions that Mr Blair's arrival meant that a compromise was close. "The risk is huge, absolutely huge," one said. "There's nothing copperfastened. He's not coming because there's a deal in the bag. He's going to join with the rest and try to pull something out of the bag."

Politicians and community leaders were "testing and teas-

ing the scenarios out, trying to see how far each one can be pushed." The goal was to find some way that the Orangemen could make even a token appearance on their traditional parade route, however great the restrictions on their numbers, dress and conduct.

Unionist officials said the Orangemen were showing some flexibility, but that Brendan MacDonnagh, the fiercely republican spokesman for the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition, was the stumbling block.

"There seems to be no talking to the man," one said. "He's not willing to enter into the spirit of this business. It requires give and take and there doesn't appear to be any willingness on his part to engage in anything at all. He just hates the Orangemen."

Mr MacDonnagh said that he had been approached by nobody. "People are getting pissed off with all this speculation in the media about politicians and prime ministers. We haven't heard a word from anyone," he said and restated his determination that the Parades Commission ban must be upheld.

Sinn Féin likewise said that nobody was talking to the residents' leaders, whom Unionists and Orangemen see as republican trouble-makers with terrorist links. However, Unionist sources confirmed that Mr Trimble would be prepared, in his capacity as First Minister and in Mr Mallon's company, to talk to the residents if that was what was required.

The ten churches in four counties were attacked in an onslaught that lasted from just before midnight on Tuesday until 9.30am yesterday. The police suspect the Loyalist Volunteer Force.

Matthew Parris, page 22



End of all the lies: Sion Jenkins arriving at court. The judge said: "That child was in your care. This was an horrendous crime"

## Billie-Jo foster father jailed for life

By JOANNA BALE

THE foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was jailed for life yesterday for her murder after a judge told him he was "an extreme danger" to the community. The jury at Lewes Crown Court took ten hours and 40 minutes to find the deputy headmaster guilty of killing the 13-year-old, after a prosecution case which relied almost wholly on evidence of microscopic blood specks found on his clothing.

What the jury of eight men and four women did not know was the outwardly respectable headmaster-elect of the 1,000-pupil William Parker Boys' School in Hastings and regular churchgoer was a "control freak" prone to violent outbursts of temper against his wife, children and Billie-Jo.

Sion Jenkins was also a serial philanderer who had an affair with a 17-year-old girl and, after his arrest, was found to have lied about his

qualifications to obtain his job. He did not, as he had claimed, attend Gordonstoun nor the University of Kent. Nor did he have a BA Honours Degree, a postgraduate certificate in education, an advanced diploma from the Open University or an MSc in education management from King's College London.

After he was jailed, flanked

in court by two personal bodyguards as Billie-Jo's natural family screaming abuse, his estranged wife Lois, 36, issued a statement saying: "The loss of Billie, especially in such awful circumstances, has been almost too much to bear. It is a terrible thing to realise that the man with whom you have lived for 14 years, the father of your children, is capable of murdering your child."

Billie-Jo's natural mother Debbie Woods said: "The police, the prosecution and above all the jury were not taken in by this liar. He has destroyed Billie-Jo's life and the lives of so many others."

Billie-Jo's natural father, Bill Jenkins, who has served time in prison for assault, said: "The last 16 months have been a nightmare, but I am pleased to see that justice has been done. He's a monster and he will get everything he deserves. He's ours now."

Detective Superintendent

Jeremy Paine, who lead the investigation for Sussex Police, described Jenkins, 40, as an intelligent, articulate and meticulous man. He added: "He is somebody who needed to control events and when they didn't go his way, he would resort to violence. On this occasion he got stressed and angry and he lost it. He has never accepted this. He appears to want to just blank it out."

He said that police are still receiving calls from parents of Billie-Jo's schoolfriends, asking for advice on how to help their children deal with their

emotions about the murder. Others who knew Billie-Jo have found it very hard to come to terms with her death and I am thinking particularly of her friends and acquaintances who have been very very deeply affected.

"I understand this and just hope that the verdict, which quite clearly identifies her killer, will make a start for some of them to come to terms with what has happened and to rebuild their lives."

Police initially suspected that a stranger had killed Billie-Jo, but Jenkins was

Continued on page 3, col 1



Billie-Jo: she was beaten to death

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### Abiola yields

Chief Moshood Abiola, the man whom many Nigerians regard as their country's rightful President, has indicated he will renounce his claim to the leadership. Chief Abiola's release is expected soon. Page 15

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## Libel legend Carter-Ruck calls in the lawyers

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the legendary libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck decided to leave the law after 60 years, he doubtless expected all the champagne celebrations which usually accompany the rite of passage into retirement.

Instead, the 84-year old solicitor, who has become a household name and regular butt of *Private Eye* jokes, has found himself embroiled in a complicated dispute with his own partners.

Worse, while the dispute was still raging, he found his name summarily removed from the firm's notepad and a stack of new stationery brought in making clear that he was no longer senior partner of the eponymous firm.

The new letter head relegated him to "founder and consultant".

Mr Carter-Ruck had hoped to retire on June 30, giving up the reins at the firm he founded in 1932, relinquishing his 15 per cent stake and retaining a consultant on a fixed salary believed to be in the region of £60,000, for three years.

The deal was that the five partners in the firm would retain his name. In return he wanted four other solicitors on the staff to be promoted to full partnership. But the existing

partners have other ideas and do not favour such a sudden expansion of their numbers. Mr Carter-Ruck, whose name is capable of striking fear into recipients of a letter or telephone call, not to mention a writ, has asked Clifford Chance, the biggest UK law firm to act for him.

Yesterday the man whose name has launched hundreds, if not a thousand writs confirmed that he would not be retiring after all and said that the agreement "seems to have foundered".

He is to continue as senior partner until the end of the year — when the present deed expires — unless a new agreement can be negotiated.



Carter-Ruck: wanted four staff promoted

He said: "It is very sad for the firm and demonstrates how all too often today the achievement of a life time can be harmed in a matter of minutes."

Ironically, despite his fearsome reputation, Mr Carter-Ruck is a man who likes to settle — as in 90 per cent of his cases — arguing convincingly that staying out of court is the better way to obtain a good deal for clients.

The roll of his past and present clients includes High Court judges, ministers, ambassadors and MPs and include: Cecil Parkinson, Norman Lamont, the late Harold Wilson and his wife, Jani Allan, Enoch Powell and Lucien Freud.

In the early days, newspapers too were often clients, but later his reputation has been more as a plaintiff's lawyer, much to his disappointment.

If the dispute is not resolved by the end of the year, it is likely that he will set up his own consultancy and take his firm's name with him.

Either way, plans for more time sailing (he has sailed in more than 50 offshore races) from his croft in Scotland, or for charitable work, are for the time being on hold.

## Palace to get £12m to deal with media

By CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Household is to receive a direct grant of almost half a million pounds a year to handle its media relations.

Tony Blair said yesterday that Buckingham Palace will take charge of the publicly funded £471,000 communications budget, previously handled on its behalf by the government-run Central Office of Information.

The move was initiated by the Royal Household. The "in-house" arrangements open the way for competitive tendering with the COI facing rival bids from public relations outfits.

The new arrangements — at no extra cost to the taxpayer — mean the Royal Household will publish an annual report on communications spending which will be open to scrutiny by MPs and the public.

The Queen has just appointed a new Communications Secretary in an attempt to improve the Royal Family's public image in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Simon Lewis, currently working in public relations for British Gas, starts at Buckingham Palace in September on a two-year secondment.



"Phone up Michael Owen and find out if he plays cricket"

### Another bad day for England

England could take only one South African wicket on the first day of the third Test at Old Trafford. Jacques Kallis scored an unbeaten hundred to leave the touring team on 237 for one at stumps. Gary Kirsten, the South Africa opener, batted all day and ended on 98. Page 49

### Champion loses at Wimbledon

Martina Hingis, the defending women's champion, was knocked out of Wimbledon in the semi-finals by the Czech, Jana Novotna, who is 12 years her senior. In a tense match full of technical errors by the Swiss number one seed, Novotna scored a decisive 6-4, 6-4 victory. Page 52

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# Liar, wife-beater, adulterer and killer

## The truth about foster father with evil temper

By JOANNA BALE  
AND EMMA WILKINS

SION JENKINS showed every sign of being a respectable member of his community. He was deputy headmaster of one of the largest comprehensive schools in Hastings, a regular church-goer and a family man with an attractive wife and five daughters.

Unknown to the other members of the congregation at Halston Baptist Church — and to the jury — he was a serial adulterer and wife-beater, who frequently disciplined his daughters with sticks and slippers. He was also seen by a family friend kicking his foster daughter's leg after she sprained her ankle, in a sudden rage.

Peter Gaimster, whose family went on holiday with the Jenkinses to France, told police that he was alarmed at Jenkins's violence towards Billie-Jo just six months before the murder. He said: "She had tripped and sprained her ankle. She seemed to be in a lot of pain, so I got an ice-pack to help keep the swelling down."

"Soon afterwards, I saw Sion go into her bedroom and throw her violently across the bed. She landed on the bed, crying. I then saw Sion walk towards Billie-Jo and violently kick her, using his right leg with full force. The kick caught Billie-Jo against her injured leg. She became hysterical."

"Sion then looked around and saw me standing there. He must have known that I had seen the attack. He

walked over to the door and calmly closed it. The subject was never mentioned again, although Mr and Mrs Jenkins said Billie-Jo always did something to be centre of attention."

The judge ruled this evidence inadmissible, despite prosecution arguments that it was an assault indicating a "long-standing hostility".

When Annie Jenkins, 12, was questioned by police about the frequent beatings with sticks and slippers her father gave her and her sisters Lottie, 10, Esther, 9, Mary, 7, and Billie-Jo, she replied: "But all families have naughty sticks, don't they? He didn't even hurt us."

Jenkins was described by police as a "control freak". His wife, Lois, was also subjected to violent punches if she crossed him. Mrs Jenkins, who declined to give evidence against her husband but is now divorcing him, needed hospital treatment after one beating.

"He hit her on several occasions both before and during their marriage and each time it seems to come like a bolt out of the blue," said a friend of Mrs Jenkins. "One time he was doing some DIY around the house and was getting frustrated. She said something that he didn't like and he just lashed out. He burst her eardrum."

Jenkins also had a string of affairs with younger women. His last infidelity was with a 17-year-old girl whom he used to drive to Battle railway station in his white MG Midget.

But it was his obsession with his foster daughter, who looked older than her 13 years, which so concerned members of her natural family, although there was no medical evidence of sexual abuse.

"The way he loved her was not right," said Maggie Coster, the girl's aunt. "I thought it was an unhealthy obsession. She was as tall as Lois and she used to wear Lois's shoes. She was stunning. It was like she was his symbol; his trophy."

"I think he tried to reinvent her like he had reinvented himself with all his lies. I think he was in love with Billie-Jo. Lois told me he adored Billie-Jo more than his own children. She said she wouldn't leave her alone with him."

One neighbour added: "Lois was a part-time social worker who spent her time rescuing children from abusive families, yet it appears that Lois's family were no different — hardly the ideal placement for a foster child. There should be a social services investigation to find out why poor Billie-Jo ended up in such a family."

Jenkins's colleagues at the William Parker comprehensive school for boys in Hastings, where he was headmaster-elect, were also taken in by his lies. He obtained his post with a false curriculum vitae in which 85 per cent of his "qualifications" were faked.

He claimed to have attended Gordonstown, which would have meant he was there at the same time as Prince Andrew. In fact, he was an academically undistinguished pupil at Glasgow Academy, a lesser-known Scottish public school. He claimed to have a 21 degree from Kent University, which was a lie.

His only qualification was an education certificate from the now-defunct Nonington teacher-training centre in Kent. His membership of the Secondary Heads Association was also based on a lie: he had no MSc or BA degrees.

Sion David Charles Jenkins was born in Deptford, south-east London, in September 1957. His father, David, was a police constable, who joined Michelin, the tyre firm. The family moved to Scotland and Jenkins joined Glasgow Academy in 1971.

He became a boarder two years later when his parents moved to Slough with his younger brother, David. He was in the D stream, for pupils of low ability. Later he claimed to have ten A-grade O levels, when he had four poorly graded ones, and that he had four A levels, when he had none.

On leaving school, Jenkins said he wanted to become a journalist, but instead went to work part-time for Mars, the



Sion and Lois Jenkins at the news conference after the murder. A detective said: "He thought he was clever enough to get away with it"

chocolate company, in Slough. He was not taken on full-time because of his "uncooperative" attitude. He decided to try his hand at teaching and left Slough to train at Nonington. He married Lois Ball in 1982 at Lansdowne Baptist Church in Bournemouth, near her parents' home town of Poole. The couple moved to the East End of London, where Mrs Jenkins became a social worker in Tower Hamlets. Jenkins worked at several schools and became English master at the McEntee Secondary School in Walthamstow in 1989.

Len Bannister, the headmaster, was taken in by Jenkins's lies: "I thought Sion was an extremely good teacher. He had an aura of enthusiasm." Other members of staff were not so keen. One contemporary said: "I remember him as being very churchy and sanctimonious. When he left, everyone clubbed together to buy him a leaving present, but he never turned up to collect it. I thought that was rather typical of his arrogant attitude."

In 1993 Jenkins moved his family to Hastings when he won his post at William Parker. He bought a £180,000 house in Lower Park Road, opposite Alexandra Park, where the children could play.

The following year he stood for election as Tory councillor, saying he was concerned about violent crime, but lost by 46 votes to a Liberal Democrat. It was the last that the local Conservative Associ-

ation ever heard of the supposedly committed new member. It may never be known what fuelled his final rage against his foster daughter. It might have been slapdash painting of the patio doors, the loud pop music she was playing on the stereo, or perhaps something she said. He grabbed a tent spike and shattered her skull in three places, continuing to beat her even after she fell unconscious to the ground.

She suffered 20 separate injuries, including bruises to the arms and hands as she tried to defend herself.

On February 24, nine days after her death, police arrived at the home of Peter and Julia Gaimster, where Jenkins and his family had been staying since the murder. They woke Jenkins, arrested him and took him to Hastings police station. One detective said: "It was almost like he was expecting us. He was very calm. I think he thought he was clever enough to get away with it;

that he could control the situation like everything else. He is the strangest man I have ever seen. Even when he was charged, there was no reaction."

While he showed no remorse over the girl's death, Jenkins was mortified when officers found out that he had worked at the Mars factory. A police source said: "When he was asked about his time at Mars, he took his head in his hands as if he was in total despair. It was the only time he showed any emotion. All through the questions he thought he was cleverer than the police. It was as if he couldn't admit to himself that he had done anything wrong."

A spokesman for East Sussex County Council said that Jenkins's references had been checked with police and the Department for Education. He added: "We have approached the DfEE to see how systems could be improved nationally."

### WIFE PLEADS FOR PRIVACY

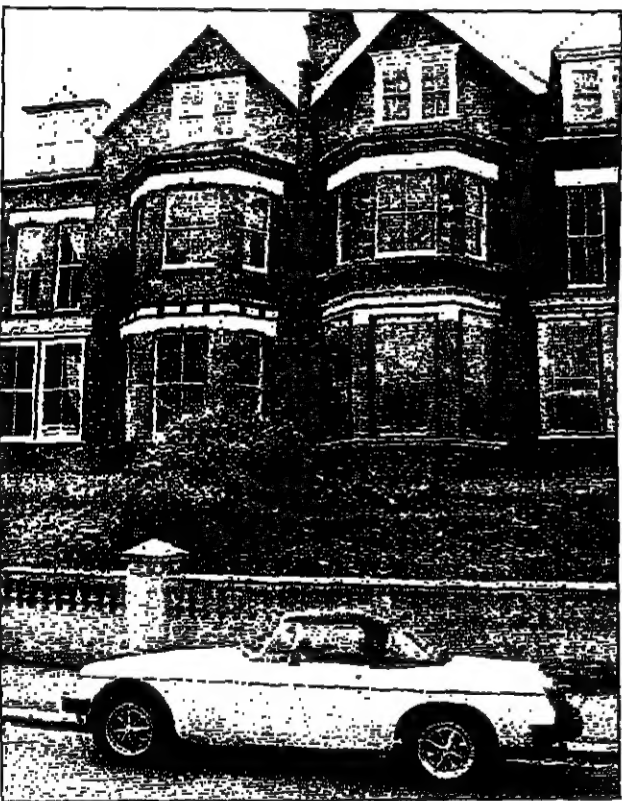
LOIS JENKINS, the wife of Sion Jenkins, last night issued a statement: "Sixteen months ago I returned, with two of my children, from a quiet Saturday afternoon walk on the beach to a tragedy more horrific than any person ever expects to encounter in a lifetime."

"The loss of Billie, especially in such awful circumstances, has been almost too much to bear. It has been hard to take time to grieve in the midst of a major murder inquiry, with all the media and public attention that such an investigation attracts. It has been hard to wait for so many months for a trial, but the need to see justice done generates a strength to carry on."

"It is a terrible thing to realise that the man with whom you have lived for 14 years, the father of your children, is capable of murdering your child. There is no reason, no explanation, for such a pointless waste of a young life."

"Now that the trial is over, the girl and I need peace and quiet to come to terms with all that has happened. Above all, we need time to grieve properly for Billie, and to learn to remember her as the happy, vibrant daughter and sister whom we knew."

"We want to thank all our family and friends, not least the community of Hastings, for the support and encouragement that has enabled us to continue to live at home, and for the girls to continue at their schools. We would also like to thank the many hundreds of people who have written to us sharing our sadness. In the loss of Billie, and offering their encouragement. Just now, in the immediate aftermath of the trial, we would appreciate privacy and quiet for ourselves, our family and our friends."



Sion Jenkins's sports car outside the family home

## Streetwise imp who turned into 'a real young lady'

By JOANNA BALE  
AND EMMA WILKINS

A STREETWISE and cheeky child, Billie-Jo Jenkins spent much of her early life with foster parents and in children's homes in the East End of London. The marriage of her parents, Bill and Debbie Jenkins, was tempestuous and brief, and they put her and her elder brother, Daryl, into care after finding it impossible to look after them properly.

Mrs Jenkins experienced problems with drug addiction and served a prison sentence for handling stolen goods. Mr Jenkins has a series of convictions, including jail for causing grievous bodily harm. Billie-Jo and Daryl came to Sion and Lois Jenkins as an emergency placement after Billie-Jo's father snatched her from her previous foster parents.

Although Daryl, 13, left Sion Jenkins's house after a week, Billie-Jo, then aged eight, stayed with the middle-class couple and their four natural



Debbie and Bill Jenkins: a tempestuous marriage

daughters. When they decided to foster her on a long-term basis, it seemed as if her happiness and prosperity were secured. The family took Billie-Jo from the streets of Newham and moved to the seaside, where they lived in a spacious house in Hastings opposite a park.

Sion Jenkins, a teacher, and his wife, a social worker, took Billie-Jo for riding lessons, weekends in the country and foreign holidays. She began to

enjoy her new life and started to lose her cockney accent.

Peter Gaimster, a family friend, said: "She was outgoing, independent, fun, a very likeable and pretty young lady. She could be difficult and answered back sometimes, but no more than any other teenager of that age. She had adjusted well to her new life and the Jenkins girls were very fond of her. They treated her like a sister."

Ann Webb, who lives next

door to the family, said: "Billie-Jo was a young lady in the old-fashioned sense of the word. It's rare to meet a young girl nowadays with such manners and such a nice attitude. She was always polite, always caring."

Carol Crispin, 36, another neighbour, said: "My children were friends with her and they are devastated. You wouldn't ever have known that she was fostered. She was just one of the family. They all got on so well."

"When the family got their dog, Buster, three years ago, Billie-Jo raced round here to show him off. She was a lovely, bright, caring girl. She had a nice circle of friends."

Billie-Jo was her year representative to the school council at Helenswood School, a comprehensive in Hastings. She adored drama and sport, and was adopting an increasingly sophisticated attitude to academic work. Her ambition was to go to drama college and she visited several in the months before her death.

house, saying he needed white spirit from a DIY store, but police discovered a half-full container of white spirit in his home. Jenkins himself fuelled suspicion by denying having gone into the house — then having to admit it after statements by his daughters.

A detective said that Jenkins was then "controlled in everything he said and did — the children were hysterical. Lois was hysterical, and he wanted to go for a walk and clear his head. He seemed detached." At a news conference, he spoke of prowlers and break-ins, saying he had become so concerned he had decided to move house. But the police had no record of complaints about prowlers.

was in your care as a foster child. You yourself were a deputy headmaster at the time, a man in a position of trust and authority with respect to children. These bare facts are sufficient to show what an horrendous crime this was.

"The fact that you did commit this crime, the circumstances in which it was committed and the way it was committed, in my judgement, demonstrates that you are a very considerable danger to the community. All these facts must be reflected in the report I send to the Home Secretary. There is only one sentence, I sentence you to prison for life."

After the killing, he had taken his daughters Annie and Lottie out of the

continued from page 1  
arrested after scientific analysis of clothing found 158 microscopic traces of blood, likened to an aerosol spray and blood, having been present consistent with him having been struck. This when the blows were struck. This remained the most compelling evidence against him despite defence claims that they came from a bubble of blood from Billie-Jo's nose.

Mr Justice Gage said: "The jury have convicted you of the murder on what in my judgement is compelling evidence. On the 15th of February last year you battered your foster daughter to death with an iron bar. It was a furious assault, the motive for which only you now know. That girl

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# Half of dioceses are struggling in face of clergy shortage

MORE than half of all dioceses in the Church of England have a shortage of ordained clergy, according to a report published today.

Record increases in ordinations of new clergy are helping to fill the gap left by retirements as increasing numbers apply to become priests in the Church of England, but there are still not enough clergy to fill the jobs available in 23 out of 43 dioceses, according to the report, to be debated at the general synod when it meets in York this weekend. Church leaders are laying special emphasis on the job satisfaction to be found in a career in the

Church places faith in rising number of recruits attracted by 'feel-good' factor, reports Ruth Gledhill

church in the hope of attracting new recruits.

It is also hoped that a pay rise of 4.2 per cent, above the rate of inflation, which will take a curate's minimum starting salary to £14,090, will help attract high-quality young men and women to the priesthoods where the top job, Archbishop, nets more than £40,000.

Combined with free housing, no council tax or water rates plus expenses, a curate's starting salary is still well above the national

average for young people starting out in a new career.

The report comes as the church disclosed that 15 per cent more new clergy have been ordained since this summer compared to Peterborough last year. Ordinations at Michaelmas are expected to show a similar increase. Next year, ordinations will increase by 20 per cent, with 257 stipendiary deacons entering full-time paid ministry as curates, compared to 240 this year. There are currently more than 1,200 people training for the priesthood.

The Ven Gordon Kuhrt, the church's director of ministry, said: "There will be jobs for all these people. There is no problem about that."

There are currently 9,132 full-time stipendiary clergy in the Church of England serving 13,000 parishes, which means each parish has just 0.7 of a vicar.

According to the report, *Statistics of Licensed Ministers*, the average age of a diocesan bishop is nearly 60, with just three under 50. The average age of a vicar is 50.

and just 1,000 of all parish clergy are aged under 40.

The shortage comes at a time when it is still the church's aim to provide a pastoral ministry to every person in the land, using the traditional parish system.

The shortfall is filled in most areas by unpaid clergy ordained into the local or national non-stipendiary ministry. Archdeacon Kuhrt said the 11 theological colleges were filling up with new recruits but still had a spare capacity for about 100 more student

clergy. "The colleges are in much better heart than for some years, because for the first time numbers are rising and they are fuller than they have been for some years," he said. "There is a 'feel-good' factor around."

He said more people were applying to become priests because the storm over women priests had calmed, the church's financial problems had been resolved and there were no fears over payment of stipends or pensions. □ Music is unnecessary to church

worship and is too often a hindrance rather than a help, a parish church organist claims today.

Too many churches cling to a repertoire of ancient music that is barely intelligible, says Peter Brown in the latest *Cross & Way*, the journal of the Church Society.

Mr. Brown, who conducts the Minehead choral society and plays the organ at a church in Selworthy, Somerset, writes: "It is perfectly possible to worship without music, or with just a bare minimum of hymns. Indeed, many find singing, if anything, an effort." He adds: "On such occasions, I long for silence."

## Princess crash survivor queries role of the Ritz

TREVOR REES-JONES, the sole survivor of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed, has asked French investigators to question management at the Ritz hotel in Paris, owned by his former employer, Mohamed Al Fayed, over the behaviour of the chauffeur Henri Paul.

Christian Curtil, a French lawyer representing Mr Rees-Jones, denied that the request was a precursor to taking legal action against Mr Al Fayed, but he noted that his client, who stopped working for the millionaire owner of Harrods in April, "has never shared the same point of view as the Ritz".

Mr Rees-Jones, 29, was seriously injured in the crash last on August 31, in which the Princess, Dodi Fayed and the driver were all killed. M. Paul, who was employed as deputy security director at the Ritz, was later found to be well over the alcohol limit.

There are some issues to be clarified," M. Curtil said. "Concerning the directors of the Ritz, what did they know and what did they not know? There are issues concerning security problems, issues concerning possible pressures, issues concerning the drunkenness of the driver. Was he obviously drunk to the knowledge of the Ritz, or not? Was everything done to guar-

**Ben Macintyre**  
reports on  
bodyguard's  
questions over  
the drunken  
chauffeur

antee the security of the passengers?"

Some Ritz executives have denied that M. Paul was drinking before he took the wheel of the Mercedes, while one witness has said he "staggered" out of the hotel bar. The hotel barman told police he was instructed not to reveal M. Paul's drunken state "for the sake of the royal family".

Sources close to the investigation said that M. Curtil had asked the investigating magistrate Hervé Stéphan to question Ritz president Franck Klein and his assistant Claude Rollet. Mr Rees-Jones and Mr Al Fayed are both civil plaintiffs in the case, but if M. Paul is declared to have been responsible for the crash, and if the Ritz is held to be negligent then the hotel, or Mr Al Fayed, could face huge damages claims.

When he left Mr Al Fayed's

employment on April 20, Mr Rees-Jones said he was leaving with regret and he thanked the owner of Harrods for his support. Mr Al Fayed paid the injured bodyguard's medical bills and flew him back to Britain by private helicopter.

Nine photographers and a motorcycle driver remain under investigation in the case, but they are not expected to have to face manslaughter charges.

"The investigation is nearly over concerning the photographers and there are some issues to be clarified," M. Curtil said, including the issue of possible witness-tampering. "We are looking for the truth," he said.

Mr Rees-Jones's fellow bodyguard, Kes Wingfield, is meeting investigators in Paris today at his own request, having left Mr Al Fayed's employ last month.

Mr Rees-Jones, who remembers nothing of the events immediately before the accident, has also requested another meeting with Judge Stéphan.

In addition, M. Curtil has written to M. Stéphan asking him to question staff at the company which supplied the Mercedes over suggestions that the vehicle may have had mechanical problems before the crash.

## Tenors sing the praises of England footballers

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE football-crazy Three Tenors comforted the vanquished England team yesterday, telling them that they would never walk alone after their "heroic" effort against Argentina.

Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras sent each member of the team and Glenn Hoddle, the coach, a letter of commiseration and a copy of their forthcoming single, *You'll Never Walk Alone*. The terrace classic was sung by English fans in the stadium before the fateful match on Tuesday.

Pavarotti and Domingo, fans of Italy, and Carreras, who is rooting for Spain, felt that England's plucky performance had produced the best match so far.

They wrote: "Dear Glenn and the England team, As you know, we are very big fans of the World Cup. Having seen the heroics performed by all of you on Tuesday night, we would like to send you our commiserations, but also our congratulations on such a classic performance."

The singers will perform a concert in Paris on July 10, ahead of the World Cup final, and the single will be released on July 13.

Letters, page 23  
Frontline flak, page 38  
World Cup reports, page 46



Willie Carson's feet didn't touch the ground when the retired Derby-winning jockey received an honorary degree at Stirling University, Scotland, yesterday

## Detectives check links in mothers' murders

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD is investigating possible links between the murders of two mothers who were tied up and murdered in their homes within days of each other.

Forensic scientists are conducting tests today on bullets from the body of Avril Johnson, 30, who was killed in front of her husband and two daughters in Brixton, South London, last weekend. The body of Michelle Carby, 35, was found by her three children when they got up for school at their flat in Stratford, East London, on Tuesday.

Police believe that robbery may have been the motive in both killings. Four men broke into Mrs Johnson's home and tied her up before shooting her in the head. There was no sign of forced entry at Miss Carby's home but she had been bound hand and foot in a chair in her sitting room.

She said goodnight to her children at about 11pm on Monday and was discovered sitting in front of the television the next morning by her daughter, aged 12, and sons aged 10 and 4. She had been shot twice in the head with a small-bore weapon.

Police were yesterday checking if anything was missing from her home and investigating whether there could be any drug links.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Kay said that forensic tests would show whether the murders were linked.

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**Boy, 14  
killing  
in Ecsta**



# Boy, 14, guilty of killing friend in Ecstasy prank

A BOY aged 14 who found a stash of Ecstasy tablets and shared them with friends "like sweets" escaped a custodial sentence yesterday after admitting culpable homicide.

One of the boy's friends, Andrew Woodcock, 13, of New Stevenston, Lanarkshire, became Britain's youngest known Ecstasy victim when he died last June as a result of taking the drug. The boy convicted of giving it to him cannot be named for legal reasons.

After swallowing one pill, Andrew began hitting his head against a fence. He took two more the following day and was found by his mother clawing his face and hair. He was violently sick and had an insatiable thirst, later collapsing into a coma from which he never recovered. His life support machine was switched off after five days.

Yesterday the teenager who gave him the drugs, in what was described by the judge as an act of bravado, was told that his case will now be dealt with by the children's hearing system.

A second accused, Alexander Macfarlane, 23, of Motherwell, was jailed for six years at the High Court in Edinburgh after admitting being concerned with the supply of Ecstasy and cannabis. He said that he had provided a "safe house" for the drugs. He gave himself up to police after learning of Andrew's death. The court was told that the

Discovery of hidden stash led to tablets being shared in 'act of bravado', writes Shirley English

boy, who was 13 when the death occurred, was "genuinely remorseful" and horrified about what had happened. He also pleaded guilty to offering the drugs to two girls, aged 15 and 14, and another 13-year-old boy.

The judge, Lord Kirkwood, said he believed that the boy had found the drugs, worth £30,000, in a bedroom when he was looking for something else and had showed them to his friends in an act of bravado designed to impress his peers.

"However, taking the drugs to your friends led to the death of Andrew Woodcock. This case demonstrates once again the dangers of Ecstasy. The consumption of relatively small amounts of the drug can have fatal consequences," the judge said.

The accused's solicitor said that his actions had been a "single episode of boyhood experimentation which led to a tragedy". He had become a virtual recluse for months

after the tragedy and was often found by his mother in a depressed state and crying.

After the hearing, Andrew's mother, Phyllis, 35, had a brief, emotional meeting with the teenager and his family. Outside the court she said she told him that she did not blame him for her son's death. Instead she called for minimum 20-year sentences for drug dealers.

She said: "What's the point in ruining two young boys' lives? People can get filled with bitterness and anger but that won't bring Andrew back."

She added that it was ridiculous that the boy had been charged with culpable homicide. "It should have been the person who supplied the drugs," she said. "I want to see the law changed so there is a minimum 20 years for drug dealing. A lot of dealers just say they are holding drugs for others."

Mrs Woodcock is campaigning for better drugs education in schools and has spoken to the parents of Leah Betts, who died from taking Ecstasy on her 18th birthday.

Yesterday Janet Betts, from Chelmsford, Essex, said that the boy who supplied Andrew Woodcock would have to learn to live with his death. "It worries me but doesn't surprise me that kids as young as this can get hold of Ecstasy. They all know where to find it. It's like adults popping out for fags," she said.



Alison Norris, left, with Geraldine Eardley, to whom she has donated a kidney

## Women defy the odds in kidney transplant

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has been given a new lease of life after her friend donated her a kidney. The hospital had put their chances of compatibility at a million to one.

Geraldine Eardley, 45, had faced years of dialysis treatment after doctors diagnosed kidney failure. Alison Norris, 50, secretly approached the doctors about the possibility of a transplant and was told that, normally, a donor would have to be a blood relative. Mrs Norris asked to be tested — and her tissue emerged as a match for Mrs Eardley's.

Over a cup of tea, Mrs Norris told her friend what had been going on. Mrs Eardley said yesterday: "I just burst into tears of happiness. It was the most wonderful thing anyone had ever done for me. We have been close friends for more than 16 years, but Alison's offer to give me one of her kidneys was overwhelming."

The kidney transplant was carried out at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff six weeks ago. It was the first in Wales in which the donor and patient were not related.

Mrs Eardley, an art teacher, said: "I felt better almost immediately after the operation. Alison came to see me in hospital and it was incredibly emotional. Saying thank you seemed totally inadequate. It

has totally changed my life. I'm amazed at how well I feel. It's been a shared experience but I still think of it as Alison's kidney."

The two women, who each have two teenage daughters, met in 1982 when they joined a babysitting circle in their home town of Penarth. In 1994 Mrs Eardley was found to have kidney failure and put on a dialysis machine three times a week.

Her husband, Owen, had wanted to donate a kidney, but his tissue type did not match. Mrs Norris, a supply teacher, said: "One day I went to visit Geraldine in hospital while she was on dialysis and I just knew I had to do something to help."

She said that she had had tremendous support from her husband and daughters. "I wasn't worried at all. It seemed the most natural thing in the world. I just wanted to do something to make things better."

Both teachers have been told by doctors to stay away from school until September in case of infection. Karen Morgan, transplant co-ordinator at Cardiff Royal Infirmary, said: "It is extremely rare for two unrelated people to match. The operating team is very pleased the transplant has been a success. It was a marvellous gesture between two friends."

## Faster test for Down's syndrome

A NEW test for Down's syndrome could reduce parents' anxious wait for the results from 15 days to just one (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Researchers at Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, used the technique in a study of 2,063 expectant mothers.

Like the traditional test, it requires a sample of amniotic fluid, which surrounds the baby in the womb. But instead of culturing the cells, the researchers used a technique for copying tiny amounts of DNA called polymerase chain reaction. This allows DNA to be "amplified" so that the telltale genetic markers of Down's can be identified.

The test correctly showed that 30 of the mothers were carrying Down's babies. The doctors said that it may become possible to use only a blood sample for the test.

## Transplant risk in tumour death

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

LIVER transplants from brain tumour victims can pass on the cancer, German doctors report today.

The finding raises the question of whether people who die from brain tumours should be used as a source of donor organs, as they are at present. The use of such organs clearly carries some risk, but doctors are loathe to turn them down when donor organs are in such short supply.

In *The Lancet*, Stephan Frank and colleagues from the Technical University of Dresden tell the story of a 29-year-old with liver failure who needed a transplant. It came from a 47-year-old woman who died from a brain tumour. The recipients of her kidneys were lucky: more than four years after the operation,

both are doing well, with no sign of cancer. But the 29-year-old who was given the liver was less fortunate. Five months after the operation the recipient — the sex is not revealed — began to deteriorate and soon died from widespread cancer.

This is not the first example of a cancer accidentally transplanted, as Patrick Healey and Connie Davis, of the University of Washington Medical Center, discuss in the same issue of the journal. However, they say patients with brain tumours should not necessarily be rejected as donors, as are those with other kinds of tumours. To exclude those with brain tumours would cut the few organs available for transplant by 1 per cent.

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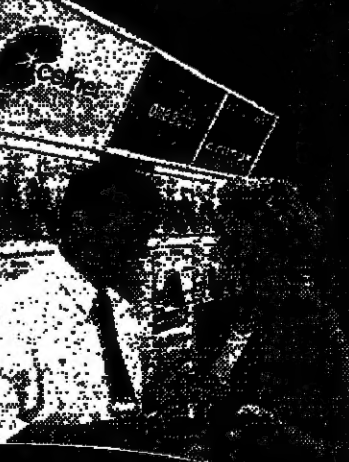
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THE SATURDAY  
TIMES



meet  
**HARRISON  
FORD**

**FAY WELDON**

'You don't have  
to stop being  
feminine to be  
a feminist'



**Herbie  
Hancock**  
On the return of the  
Headhunters



**ANNE  
ROBINSON**  
'I don't want  
Diana's garden in  
my back yard'

## New laws to protect vanishing hedgerows

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 232,000 miles of hedgerows, which are being dug up at a rate of more than 2,100 miles a year, are to receive stronger legal protection under proposals announced by the Government yesterday.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said that he planned regulations broadening and simplifying the criteria for deciding which hedges should be preserved. He indicated that he was in favour of extending from six to eight weeks the notice that farmers and landowners must give to local authorities of an intent to remove a hedge.

In addition, the Government would consider whether the Environment Act of 1995 should be amended to let local authorities, rather than ministers, "determine which hedgerows in their area are important and worthy of protection".

Before new regulations were introduced, he said, research would be carried out to provide a reliable estimate of what percentage of hedgerows the proposals would be likely to protect. "Hedgerows are a much-loved part of our countryside heritage, and a habitat rich in biodiversity," Mr Meacher said. "And yet the last survey, in 1993, showed that over 3,500 kilometres (2,100 miles) were being grubbed out each year."

The announcement received a qualified welcome from conservation groups, which sat with farmers and landowners on the working party that submitted the proposals to the Government. Elizabeth Cooper, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "The proposals are a step in the right direction, but

inevitably, in attempting to reconcile conflicting interests, they are a compromise and do not go as far as we would like."

"Many types of field boundary will still be left unprotected and, given the leisurely pace at which the Government is proceeding, it could be 18 months to two years before any new regulations or legislation take effect."

Existing regulations, introduced by the previous Conservative Government, set out complicated and narrowly drawn historical, archaeological and ecological criteria for identifying hedgerows deemed worthy of preservation. It is estimated that only about a fifth of hedgerows qualify.

The new proposals would allow local authorities to protect hedges that do not meet these strict criteria but are nonetheless regarded as an attractive and indispensable part of the regional landscape.

Conservation groups would like protection to be extended to other types of traditional field boundaries, such as the earth and stone banks topped by gorse found in Cornwall, dry-stone walls and ditches and dykes.

Historically, hedges were created to enclose fields of a size that could be worked by a horse or a man on foot. Modern machinery, such as combine harvesters, require much larger fields if they are to be used efficiently.

Last month Ian Prior, of Vowchurch, Hereford and Worcester, became the first landowner taken to court under present regulations. He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £4,000 in legal costs for removing nearly half a mile of medieval hedgerow.



Val Mainwaring, a paramedic, is the first female member of the Penlee lifeboat in Cornwall (Peter Foster writes). The mother of four joined the crew when she moved to Cornwall last August and has been on training missions since October. The lifeboat lost all eight members of its crew when they tried to rescue the freighter *Union Star* in December 1981. Mrs Mainwaring said of her colleagues: "I thought they might be a bit hostile but they have been very welcoming and

## New recruit is a first for Penlee lifeboat

are always prepared to teach me things." Mrs Mainwaring, who is in her early 40s and from Manchester, was on duty when the city's IRA bomb went off. She said: "You get to see most

things in an inner city hospital's accident and emergency unit. I hope my medical skills will be useful for the lifeboat service." At 5ft 8in tall, and weighing 12 stone, she said she was

well equipped to meet the challenges. "I'm certainly not a weak little thing... but I do get my leg pulled — some people call me Captain Mainwaring." The Royal National Lifeboat Institution said there were about 200 female crew in a total of 4,000 nationwide. Neil Brockman, the coxswain of *Mabel Alice*, said: "When I think she's ready to go on a shout, she'll go on a shout. If she's not, she won't. That would be the same if she were a man or a woman."

## Poison fear from woodworm treatment

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

A SCIENTIST wants a ban on an insecticide used to treat woodworm after research showed that the chemical can linger in the home for several years.

Pest control companies use permethrin on suspected infestations in homes, a treatment backed by the Government's Health and Safety

Executive. They say that the chemical, which has been linked to skin, throat and eye irritation, birth defects, cancer and problems of the nervous system, falls to safe levels in the air eight hours after application.

Jeff Howell, of South Bank University in London, an expert on wood and damp problems in houses, said yesterday: "British safety tests only look at the concentration in the air. But new German research

has shown that breathing in the fumes is not the problem. Skin contact and eating contaminated food are far more significant routes for poisoning. The Germans have found that house dust picks up permethrin from the floors and deposits it on tables and other food preparation surfaces. Concentrations on tables in treated buildings remain high for at least two years."

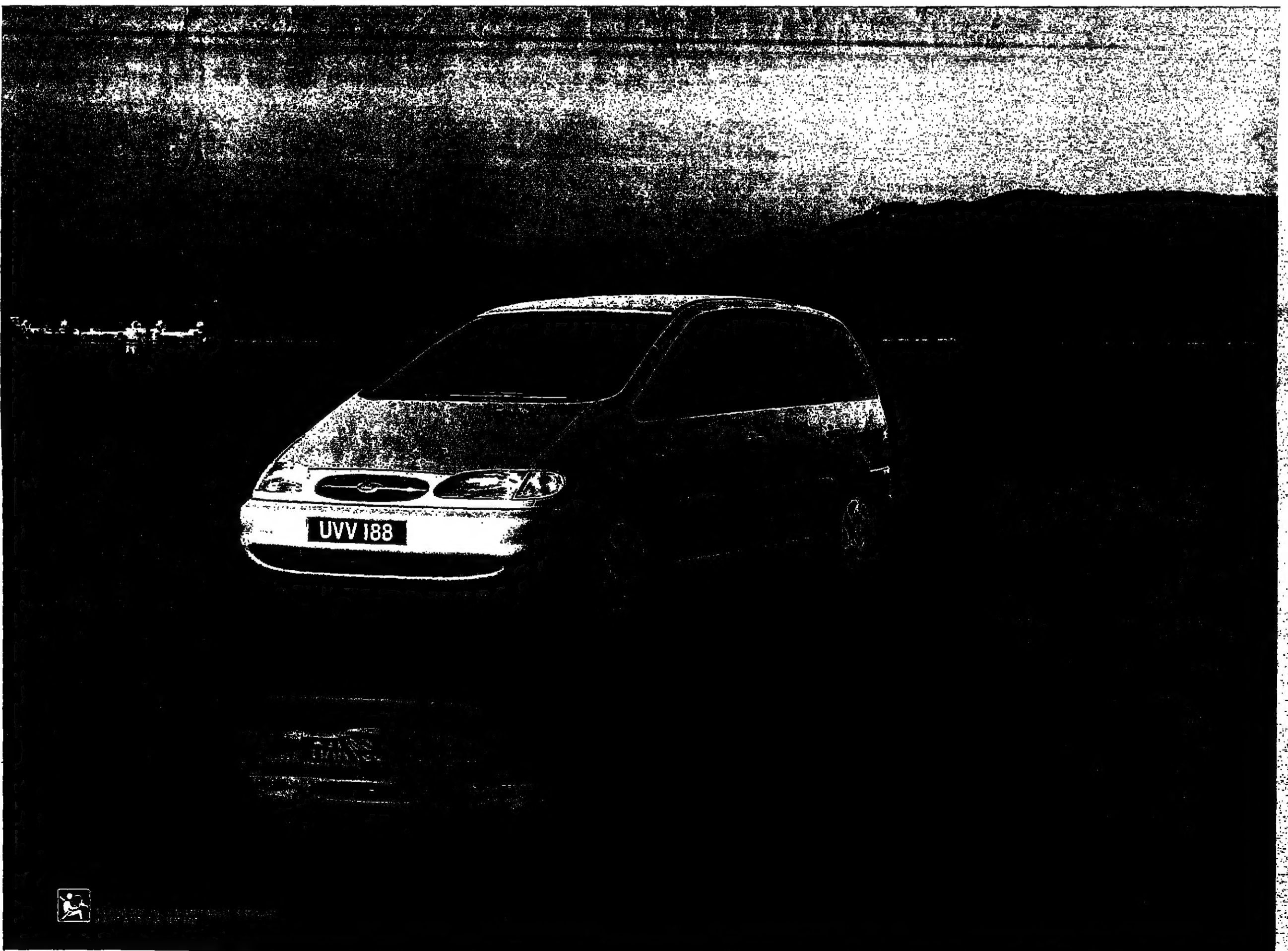
Dr Howell said the treat-

ment should be banned pending more research and studies on effects to health. "Hundreds of thousands of British homes have been sprayed with this chemical and now it seems it is not safe," he said.

Dr Howell, senior lecturer in construction science, said it was unlikely that banning the chemical would cause damage. Because of central heating, most modern homes were too dry for woodworm to survive. The new research has

been carried out by the Fraunhofer Institute of Toxicology and Aerosol Research in Hanover on behalf of the German Federal Health Agency. It followed 250 suspected cases of permethrin poisoning.

A spokeswoman for the Health and Safety Executive said it believed permethrin was safe. She said the executive worked closely with the industry and had had no reports of ill effects in the past two years.



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مركز الامم



# Football 'hard man' escapes jail for assault

By RICHARD DUCE

VINNIE JONES, the international footballer with a reputation as a hard man on the field, was spared a jail sentence yesterday after attacking a neighbour.

Jones, 33, the Queens Park Rangers player and assistant manager, who also plays for Wales, was ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service and to pay fines, costs and compensation totalling £1,165 for punching, kicking and biting Timothy Gear, Piers Read, his lawyer, earlier told the court that Jones would inevitably have been sacked by QPR had he been jailed.

Jones emerged from St Albans Magistrates' Court to say that, since the attack, the worry about the future both for him and his wife, Tanya, had been terrible. He said: "I just want to get on with my life and enjoy my training."

Through Mr Read, he had offered a courtroom apology to Mr Gear, a riding instructor, whom he attacked last year in Redbourn, Hertfordshire. Mr Gear, who was in court, said later that he accepted the apology and echoed Jones's



Gear: he accepted courtroom apology

words: "I just want to get on with my life."

Mr Read said Jones had moved house to Hemel Hempstead "specifically to avoid anything like this happening again". He added: "He has made one mistake in life, which brings him to this court for sentence today. He has made a significant career for himself in the football world. He has a reputation in terms of that football career."

Referring to Jones's reputation on the pitch, Mr Read told the magistrates: "I hope you would accept that his

sporting reputation is something he leaves at work when he goes home."

Jones was convicted at an earlier hearing of assault and criminal damage after Mr Gear had removed a stile that the footballer had placed across a public footpath. He was ordered to pay £400 compensation to Mr Gear for the attack and was also fined £300 for criminal damage with £65 compensation for damage to Mr Gear's mobile home, along with £400 costs.

The court was told that Jones, who does a lot of work for the children's sports charity Sparks, donated the fee he received for starring in a recent film to the charity. Mr Read also said that the footballer gave a lot of his time to Harefield Hospital, where his wife had a heart transplant operation ten years ago.

Hertfordshire Probation Service said arrangements were being made to decide how Jones should perform the community service. It is likely to start within the next ten working days.

Queens Park Rangers declined to comment about the case or the sentence.



Vinnie Jones, with his wife, Tanya, leaving court yesterday "to get on with my life"

## Dead soldier's family given trial pledge

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE father of a British soldier beaten to death in Croatia won a promise yesterday that his alleged killers would be brought to trial.

Private Simon Jeans, 25, was attacked just after finishing a charity run to raise money for child victims of the civil war. The Gulf War veteran was beaten over the head with an iron bar in the Croatian resort of Split.

Police arrested five suspects soon after the assault in September 1996, but no further action was taken. Yesterday, however, Private Jeans's father, Terry, met Andrija Kojakovic, the Croatian Ambassador in London, and was assured that the accused would go on trial in October.

Mr Kojakovic said he would help Mr Jeans to attend the trial. Last night Mr Jeans, of Gosport, Hampshire, said: "The fight is not over to get justice for Simon, but I feel very happy that we are getting somewhere."

He felt that army chiefs and the Foreign Office had forgotten his son's murder. Frustrated by what he called a diplomatic brush-off, he sought help from his MP, the Tory Peter Viggers. Mr Viggers said: "We hope that, after such a long delay, we will

now see justice take its course, which is all Mr Jeans wants."

Private Jeans and four colleagues were set upon by a mob after leaving a bar in Split. Police said that the soldiers had not been drunk or unruly.

Private Jeans, who was married with a young 20-month-old son, was flown to Britain a week afterwards and appeared to be recovering. But he went into a coma and died two days later.

The soldier was a driver in the Royal Logistics Corps and was in the former Yugoslavia with the Nato peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. He was normally based in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, but had crossed the border to take part in a half-marathon for disabled children who had been evacuated.

Croatian diplomats explained that the trial had been delayed because one of the accused was a minor and the judge had been seriously injured in a car crash. It is believed that one of the accused is an influential figure in the Croatian security forces.

The ambassador said that he had been in contact with the legal authorities in Split, which had promised that there would be no further delays.

## Pages of history reveal a class struggle down at Emmerdale

By PAUL WILKINSON



Ripping yarn: Ian Mason with the 1719 estate book

A BARONET and his *nouveau riche* neighbour traded insults and threats in a boundary dispute near the village that is best known as television's *Emmerdale*.

Their clash seems like a plot for a soap opera or a court case, but it has come to light in newly uncovered documents from 1719. Sir Walter Calverley, who could trace his family back to the Norman Conquest, scorned Henry Marsden, who owned neighbouring land around Bradford, because his grandfather was "only a common attorney".

Their feud, which led to an armed

confrontation across a disputed moorland line, is told in close-packed copperplate script in a leather-bound memorandum book given for safe-keeping to the West Yorkshire Archive Service. Ian Mason, the principal archivist, believes the book, one of a number of estate records from Sir Walter's home, Esholt Manor Court, was probably written by his steward. The estate workers' village of Esholt, just north of Bradford, is more familiar today as the former setting for *Emmerdale*.

Mr Mason said: "It's quite rare to come across evidence like this of a feud which we didn't know anything about. The account suggests it was a

long-standing disagreement. They were two very important local families, who owned large properties and were lords of their manors. It was a lot bigger than the modern-day dispute over a hedge."

The initial cause of the row was Sir Walter's distress at what he knew as Calverley Moor being called Bradford Moor by locals. The baronet set up a stone marking the edge of his land at one end of a right of way across the moor above Leeds. Marsden was so incensed by this apparent annexation of what he claimed as his territory that he led a party of relatives and friends wielding iron mallets to rip out the stone

and smash it. Sir Walter had been tipped off and lay in wait with his supporters. He warned his opponents that they were "in his liberty and at their perils". Fortunately, the two sides contented themselves with swapping insults.

Marsden said: "I am not afraid of the baronet's patents and I will buy one myself." Sir Walter retorted: "Your family are not worth the honour. Your grandfather was only a common attorney and the first rise of his family."

Eventually Marsden's group backed down, after walking the length of his boundary in a symbolic gesture. In August of the following

year, Sir Walter won a trespass action at York Assizes. The jury awarded him £130 damages, after a site visit at the expense of both litigants, including free dinner at the Gaping Goose tavern in Idle.

Subsequently, Sir Walter's son rebuilt their house, which is now used as offices by Yorkshire Water. Its elegant gardens are surrounded by a sewage farm. Esholt was used for filming *Emmerdale* by the Yorkshire TV until recently, when pressure from tourists forced recording to be moved to a purpose-built set ten miles away in the private grounds of Harewood House, the home of the Queen's cousin, Lord Harewood.

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## Funeral director accused of theft

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN UNDERTAKER who buried and cremated the wrong bodies has also been charged with stealing a ring worth £10,500.

David Turner, 54, is accused of stealing the solitaire diamond ring owned by an unknown person between a date unknown and May 16 this year. Police confirmed in May that he had mistakenly buried Edith Kemp, 97, in a grave meant to be the last resting place of 58-year-old Sheila Gent.

Three days later, in January last year, David Turner Funeral Services in Thetford, Norfolk, cremated the body of Mrs Gent at a service for Mrs Kemp. Police investigated after a former employee made allegations.

Mr Turner was charged with dishonestly obtaining £1,282 from Mrs Gent's husband, Maurice, by falsely representing that he had buried her and dishonestly obtaining £1,144 from Arthur Davis by falsely representing that his relative, Mrs Kemp, had been cremated.

Mr Turner, of Rushford, near Thetford, was also charged under the 1902 Cremation Act with creating an incorrect plaque. He was to have faced the charges and another relating to the ring at Thetford Magistrates' Court today, but failed to attend. The case was adjourned until July 23. Mr Turner was given unconditional bail.

## CSA reform will cut income for third of parents

Harriet Harman aims to simplify calculations for levy on absent fathers, reports

Alexandra Frea

NEARLY a third of single parents will be worse off under proposals to reform the Child Support Agency and to simplify maintenance awards.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, will announce on Monday plans to replace the CSA's complex formula for calculating maintenance payments with a fixed rate based on a percentage of the absent parent's income.

Ministers believe that 70 per cent of single parents with care of a child or children will be better off under the new system. For the 30 per cent whose income is expected to fall, they are proposing a system of transitional relief that will limit the reduction in income to £5 a week a year until the revised level is reached.

Also, to persuade more mothers to co-operate with the CSA by naming an absent father, the Government is considering offering a benefit "disregard" worth about £10 a week. This would ensure that women receiving income support would be better off as a result of getting maintenance from their absent partner.

Downing Street officials were said last night to be "fine-tuning" the package of reforms in the Green Paper to be presented to the Commons on Monday. One draft suggested that absent parents

would pay 12 per cent of their net income in maintenance for a first child and 5 per cent each for second and third children.

The main aim of the Green Paper is to simplify a system of assessment, begun in 1991, which is now acknowledged to be too complicated. Ministers believe it is absurd that 90 per cent of the CSA's time is spent on making assessments and just 10 per cent on enforcing payment.

The idea of a family court system to deal with maintenance disputes, which some CSA critics claim would be more responsive, has been rejected by ministers because of the large workload. Officials estimate that there will be one million cases on the CSA's books by 2001.

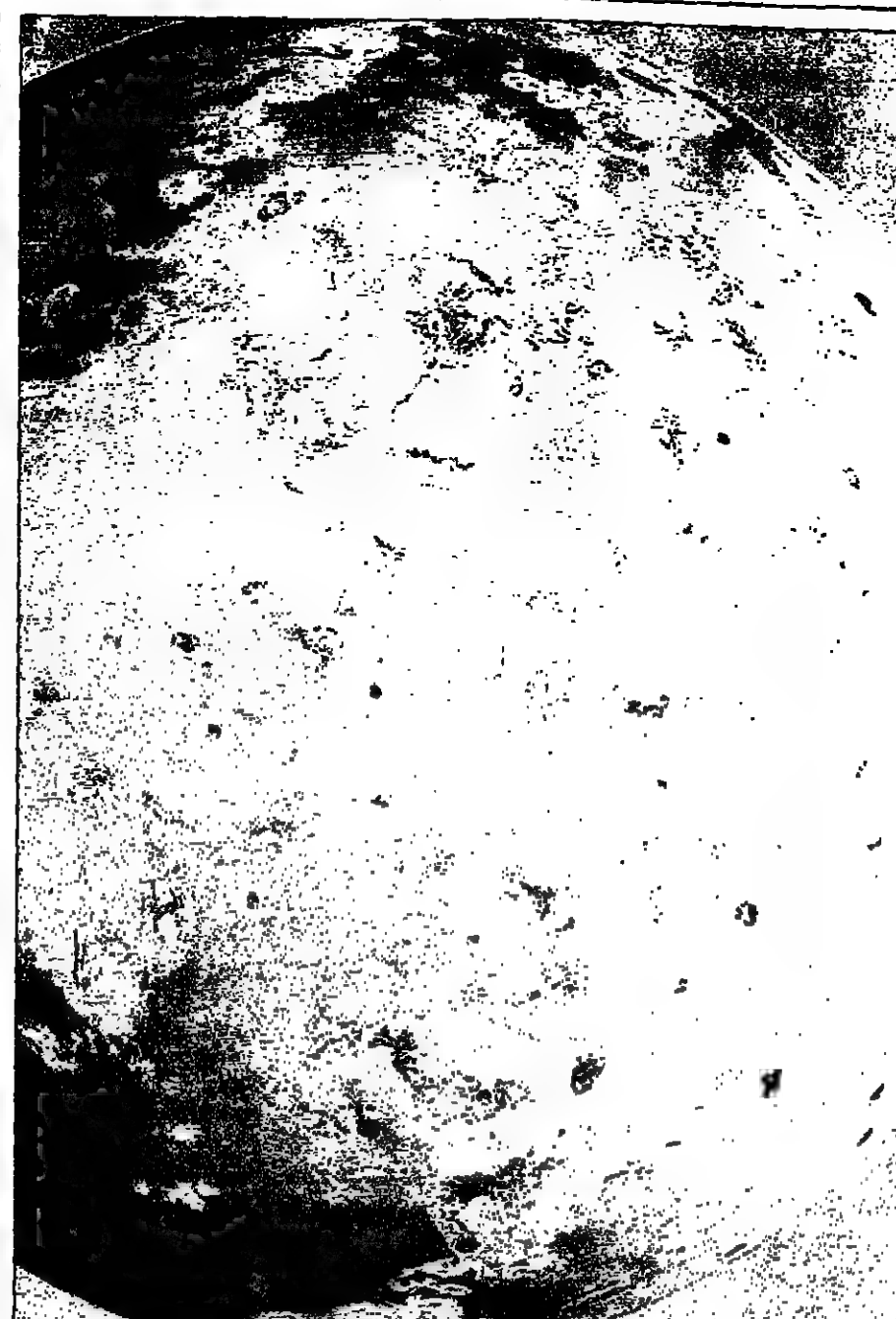
Archy Kirkwood, Liberal Democrat chairman of the Commons Social Security

Select Committee, welcomed the principle of a fixed-rate system for maintenance. "It would enable everyone to be much clearer about what is going to happen to them and allow the agency to concentrate on enforcement," he said. The committee is to set up an inquiry into the Green Paper to ensure wide consultation.

But David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat social security spokesman, said that the party was opposed to a fixed formula. He called for the CSA to be replaced with a family court or tribunal system and described the proposals as "a cheap and dirty solution which is not going to work".

David Hinchliffe, Labour chairman of the Health Select Committee, said that the proposals would largely address the problems but he emphasised the need for a "fairly immediate" appeals mechanism. He employs a researcher virtually full-time to deal solely with CSA complaints in his Wakefield constituency.

A spokeswoman for the National Council for One-Parent Families said: "We welcome the principle of a simplified formula but the percentage would need to be high enough to ensure that children are adequately provided for."



The surface of Io, showing volcanoes as dark eruptions with rings around them

## Hottest spots in the solar system

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

VOLCANOES on one of Jupiter's moons spew lava at temperatures greater than any planetary body in the solar system, the *Galileo* spacecraft has discovered.

At least 12 different vents on Io produce lava at more than 2,200°F, while one is as hot as 3,100°F, astronomers report in this week's issue of *Science*.

Around these hotspots Io's surface is bitterly cold, minus 243°F, because it is so far from the Sun.

Io's interior is being heated by the constant changes of shape it experiences as it orbits Jupiter. The other moons, Europa and Ganymede, pull it into an eccentric orbit so that it alternately passes close to Jupiter, then swings far away.

The effect, says James Head, of Brown University, is to heat Io just as metal heats when it is bent constantly to and fro. To release the heat from its interior, Io has developed volcanoes, shown in *Galileo*'s image as dark spots.

The process going on in Io may be very similar to those in the early history of the Earth and Venus, and may help us to understand how the Earth evolved, according to Alfred McEwen, of the University of Arizona, the lead author.

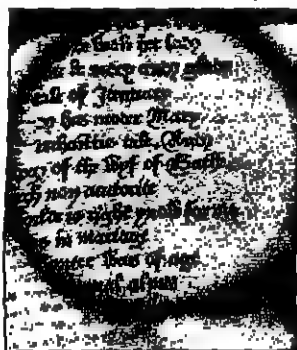
## Chaucer's tales may fetch £1½m at auction

BY JIM MCCUE

A VOLUME of Chaucer printed by Caxton and known as the first great printed book of English poetry is expected to fetch more than £500,000 at auction next Wednesday. The Rockingham copy of *The Canterbury Tales* (1476-77) is perhaps the finest surviving from the first edition of Chaucer's masterpiece.

Caxton brought printing to England from the Continent, where he had been a wool merchant and diplomat, and set up shop in the grounds of Westminster Abbey. Notable for printing in the vernacular, rather than in classical languages, he published four other books of Chaucer's poetry. *The Canterbury Tales* was so successful that he published a second edition, with woodcuts, in 1484. He also printed the first edition of *Malory*.

The Chaucer is being sold at Christie's by the Fitz-



Magnified text from the *Wife of Bath*

william family of Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire, with pictures, furniture, silver and seven other rare early books.

The collections were built primarily by two remarkable politicians: the 1st Earl of Stratford (1589-1644), who was Charles I's Lord Lieutenant in Ireland, and his great-great grandson, the 2nd Marquess of Rockingham (1730-82), who

was the patron of Edmund Burke and twice Prime Minister. A Van Dyke portrait of Stratford's presumed mistress will feature in the sale and is expected to make about £3 million.

Rockingham bought *The Canterbury Tales* at Christie's in 1776. At the same sale, his agent bought Caxton's translation of *The Decretals of Gratian*, which is estimated to fetch £40,000 to £60,000. Caxton had begun to study the art of printing to distribute his translation of the *Recueil of the Histories of Troy*, the first book printed in English (Bruges, 1473-74), which is estimated at up to £400,000.

In the 1760s, Rockingham commissioned Stubbs to paint his Arab horse Whistler at near life-size. The painting was acquired by the National Gallery from Wentworth last year as part of the current dispersals. Wednesday's sale is expected to realise up to £10 million.

## Channel 4 shows first gay drama series

BY CAROL MIDDLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH television is to have its first gay drama series as part of Channel 4's renewed drive to cater for minority audiences.

The series, which insiders say will be similar to BBC2's award-winning drama *This Life*, is likely to include bedroom scenes, but will be screened after the 9pm watershed. It will be set in Manchester and will focus on the lives of three gay men. Channel 4 says it will be a positive portrayal of gay life in contemporary Britain.

Earlier this year the Independent Television Commission accused Channel 4, the channel created to be different, of losing "some of its innovative drive".

Gub Neal, Channel 4's Head of Drama, said: "It is a wonderfully refreshing take on the gay world. There are an awful lot of gays out there who are having a great time. This will not be about people having AIDS; it is a celebration of gay life."

The unnamed eight-part series will be produced by Nicky Schindler, maker of Jimmy McGovern's *Hillsborough*, and written by Russell T. Davies, who helped to devise Granada's recent drama *The Grand*. It will be screened next year.

□ The new series of the satirical comedy *Drop the Dead Donkey*, starting this autumn, will be its last. Channel 4 has confirmed. It is understood that the writers have decided that, after six series, the show has run its course.



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## Labour MPs plan arms case revolt

By NICHOLAS WATT

A GROUP of Labour MPs is planning to revolt against the Government next week in a Commons debate linked to the arms-to-Africa affair.

The backbench dissidents plan to vote with the Tories to register their anger with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, over his refusal to co-operate with an inquiry by an all-party Commons committee.

One of the MPs said yesterday: "This is a point of principle and goes to the heart of the right of Parliament to scrutinise the executive. I will be voting for Parliament."

The rebellion is planned for the end of a Tory-initiated debate on Tuesday on the Government's refusal to co-operate with the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Mr Cook infuriated the committee this week when he asked its members to end their cross-examination of Sir John Kerr, the Head of the Diplomatic Service. The MPs ignored his request.

The committee has also been angered by the Government's refusal to allow a Commons debate on allegations of British complicity in the illegal supply of arms to Sierra Leone. Ministers say such a debate would prejudice the independent inquiry into the affair.

The Tories accused the Government of arrogance in trying to prevent any debate on the matter before the summer recess.

# Blair promises eight years of higher NHS spending

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR promised yesterday to increase spending on the health service above inflation for at least another eight years. But he emphasised that the money would be linked to a modernisation programme designed to lift standards in hospitals and end the delays faced by patients at every stage of their treatment.

"People know that hospitals work round the clock but they still sometimes feel that the instant access, seven-day, 24-hour world that they normally live in appears to have passed the NHS by," he said.

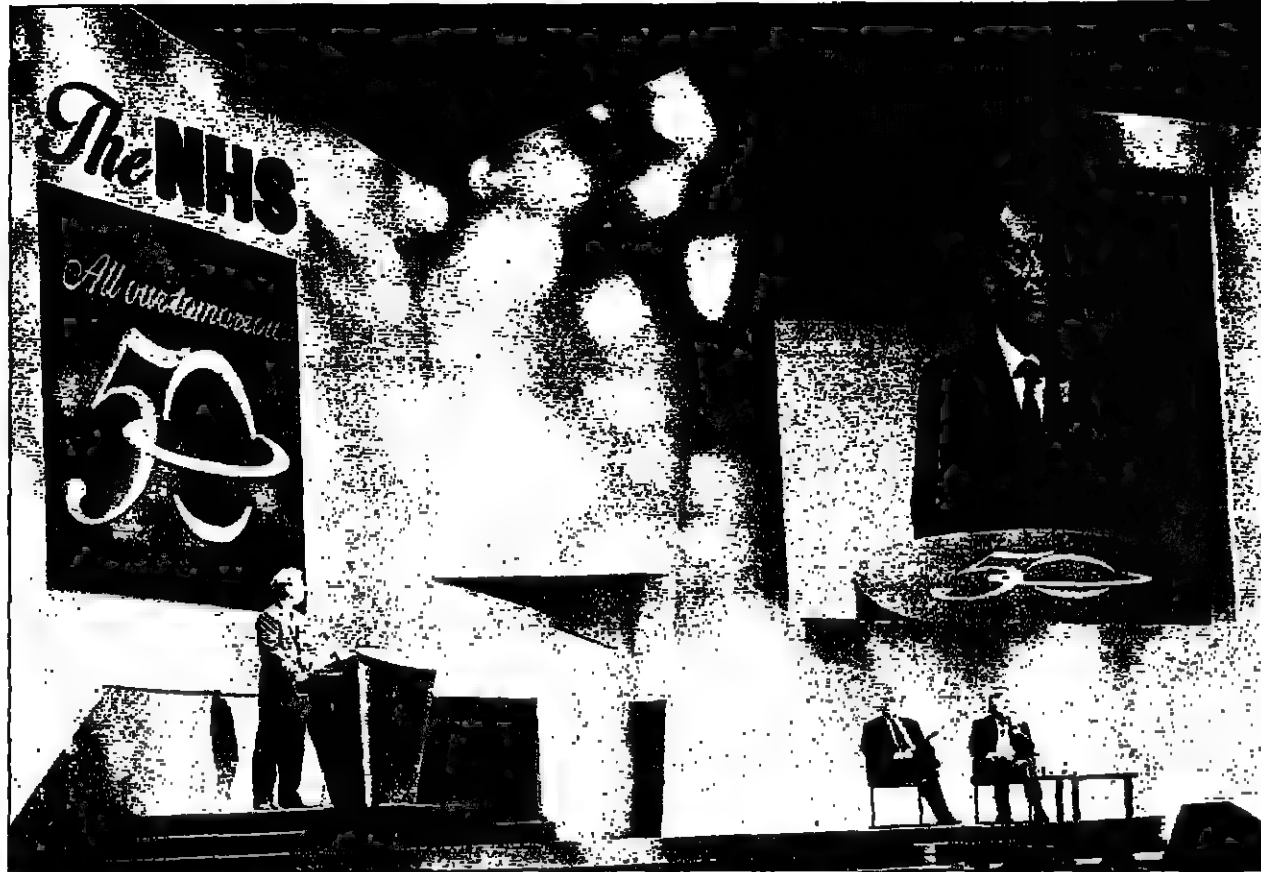
"People are fed up with waiting. They wait for a GP appointment. They wait for a prescription. They wait for outpatients. They wait to have tests... That's got to end."

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has already promised above-inflation increases for the NHS for the next three years. The spending review, to be published in two weeks, is expected to provide between £8 billion and £10 billion extra for the NHS.

Yesterday Mr Blair went further by promising "sustainable year-on-year increases for the foreseeable future". Officials later conceded that this would cover the whole of the next Parliament.

Mr Blair, in a speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the service, said: "I want an NHS with the confidence that its funding will allow it to plan ahead, to be creative — develop services in a knowledge that they will be there today and in the years ahead."

He announced a new NHS modernisation fund, from which health trusts and GP



Tony Blair speaking in London yesterday. He said people were "fed up of waiting" at every stage of NHS treatment

practices would be able to bid for money to become "beacons of excellence", providing the highest standards of care and testing innovative practice.

They would qualify for extra money over their annual allocation. Where a particular pilot project was successful, the fund would finance its extension across the country.

The fund, which would form a "substantial proportion of the NHS budget", would be used to bring new technology and equipment to the NHS, reduce waiting lists, refurbish hospitals and GP

surgeries and pay for better training of staff.

But the new settlement would come at a price. "That price is the change necessary to make money work. It is a contract to renew the NHS: investment for reform; money for modernisation."

Mr Blair made clear that he intended to apply the same rigorous standards to hospitals as had been applied to schools. At present there were "huge variations in efficiency and quality".

The challenge for the NHS was to harness the informa-

tion revolution and use to benefit patients. He outlined a vision for the future in which doctors would be consulted via the Internet or interactive television, and heart monitoring could be done by phone.

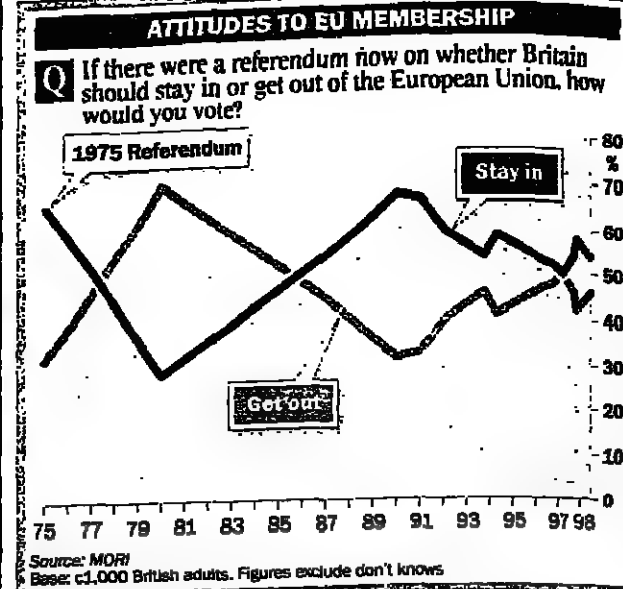
Health managers welcomed his speech but said that the NHS had been starved of funds and needed at least £10 billion over the next three years merely to survive.

And Arne Widdecombe, Shadow Health Secretary, said: "Don't let Britain be fooled. This money is not new money, it's simply catching-up

money. It's a fact, independently verifiable, that at least £8 billion needs to be spent just to match the Conservatives' average increases in health spending during our time in government."

□ The Prince of Wales will join 1,800 people at Westminster Abbey at noon today for a service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NHS. The congregation will include hospital staff from throughout Britain, and former staff who joined the NHS in 1948.

Leading article, page 23



## Blair's shift on Europe fails to sway the voters

By PETER RIDDELL

YOUNGER people, men, professionals and managers, optimists about the economy, Labour supporters and readers of quality/broadsheet papers are much more likely to favour Britain's membership of the European Union than older people, women, manual workers, pessimists about the economy, Tories and readers of popular/tabloid papers, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

Overall, more people continue to believe that Britain should stay in the EU than should get out — by a 54 to 46 per cent margin. This is after deducting 13 per cent don't knows. The net balance in favour of staying in of plus 8 points is less than the plus 16 of last November, but is otherwise in the upper end of the range of the past four years.

Consequently, despite the more overtly pro-European stance of the Blair Government over the past 14 months, there has been little change in the overall balance of public opinion on Europe. With polls still showing that a majority opposes Britain joining a single currency, this suggests that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown still have a lot of work to do to win a majority in any referendum on the issue and they will need to offer a positive lead.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, reveals that just 42 per cent could identify Britain as the country which held the presidency of the EU from January until the end of June. This is less than the 45 per cent saying they don't know. Some 8 per cent named either France or Germany. The poll also shows how attitudes towards Europe vary substantially. Although 18 to 34-year-olds make up 34 per cent of the adult population, just 26 per cent of those wanting Britain to leave the EU come from this age group. Similarly, while the middle classes make up 49

per cent of adults, they account for 43 per cent of those wanting Britain to leave the EU. By contrast, an above-average proportion of those wanting Britain to stay in the EU are 18 to 34-year-olds (37 per cent) and middle class (56 per cent).

The contrasts in the net balance for staying in or getting out are striking. For instance, men are much more favourable than women, plus 13 points against plus 3 points. The net balance declines from plus 40 points in favour of staying in among 18 to 24-year-olds to minus 8 points among those over 55.

Similarly, the net balance declines from plus 37 points among professionals and managers to minus 13 among unskilled workers. Optimists about the economy favour Britain remaining in by a 26-point margin, against minus 10 among pessimists.

Tory supporters want to get out by a 22-point margin, while Labour supporters favour staying in by a 25-point margin, and Liberal Democrats take the same view by a 12-point margin.

Readers of quality/broadsheet papers favour staying in the EU by a 47-point margin, while readers of popular/tabloid papers support getting out by a 10-point margin. Readers of *The Sun* favour getting out by a 17-point margin.

The proportion referring to Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain today has jumped over the past month from 22 to 33 per cent, the highest number of mentions since last October. It is now equal second, with education and unemployment, behind the health service. Equally striking is that Europe is now the single most important issue, mentioned by 22 per cent, ahead of unemployment and health.

□ MORI interviewed 926 adults on June 25-30.

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## Anti-hunt Bill to die with rest of the pack

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

ABOUT 50 backbench Bills ranging from a ban on hunting to a curb on frothy pints of beer will be consigned to the parliamentary dustbin today as they finally run out of time in the House of Commons.

Most of the Bills will die when an MP or whip shouts out the single word "object" at 2.30pm on what is the last day allotted in this parliamentary session for Private Member's Bills.

For many MPs it will be a sad moment when a project they have cherished and mastered is lost amid a blizzard of parliamentary procedure. Although the Government will be responsible for killing most of the Bills, particular anger will almost certainly be directed at Eric Forth, the Tory MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, who has developed a notoriety for objecting.

Mr Forth will object to the Energy Efficiency Bill, a measure with all-party support which would force mortgage lenders to show new home owners how to make their new properties more energy efficient. He believes that the Bill would create unnecessary red tape and has not been subject to enough parliamentary scrutiny.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Andrew Warren, Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, urges Mr Forth to drop his objection. He writes: "If on Friday Mr Forth again objects to the Bill, he will have demonstrated the idiocy of a system which gives one man the power to block an initiative which continues to have enormous support, both within and without the Commons."

Mr Forth, however, has decided to drop his previous objection to a popular Bill introduced by his Tory colleague, Sir George Young, designed to regulate London mini-cabs.

Tory MPs will spend some time debating the Bills that come up first, such as those regulating fireworks and pesticides, so that no time is left for other measures such as the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill.

Letter, page 23

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY, in the Commons: Fireworks Bill, Lords amendments; Pesticides Bill, Lords amendments; Waste Minimisation Bill, third reading. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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Thurs., 26, at 2.30 THE TEMPEST  
Fri., 27, at 2.30 JULIUS CAESAR  
Sat., 28, at 2.30 AS YOU LIKE IT  
Sun., 29, at 2.30 SHAKESPEARE

Monday, 23rd, at 7.45 TWELFTH NIGHT  
Wed., 25, at 7.45 The Tempest of the Shrew  
Fri., 27, at 7.45 RICHARD II  
Sun., 29, at 7.45 HAMLET  
Mon., 30, at 7.45 MACBETH  
Tue., 31, at 7.45 Much Ado About Nothing

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Scenes from the Old Vic a poster from 1917, when the theatre was run by Lilian Baylis: Celia Johnson playing Shaw's St Joan; and Laurence Olivier as Richard III

## Trust saves Old Vic in £3.5m deal

Theatre's future secured, but £2m is still needed, writes **Dalya Alberge**

THE Old Vic has been saved by a new charitable trust. The owners, Ed Mirvish and his son David, were so determined to see it remain a theatre that they rejected lucrative offers from the commercial sector.

The Mirvishes, who are said to have lost up to £30 million since they bought the theatre to years ago, put it on the market last year with an asking price of £7.5 million. Since then the annexe has been sold to the Royal National Theatre for £1.1 million.

The Old Vic, so central to the country's theatrical tradition, was saved at the eleventh hour from possible conversion into a lap-dancing club, pub or shopping centre when it was sold to the newly formed Old Vic Theatre Trust for £3.5 million. The Grade II listed building is 180 years old.

An initial payment of £1.5 million has been made possible by anonymous benefactors: £2 million will need to be raised within 21 months.

David Mirvish said yesterday that he could have got £5 million for the main building but that he had taken note of what the Culture Secretary

said at the Olivier Awards in February, when the Mirvishes, who are from Canada, were given an award for their work in restoring and running the building. Chris Smith had pleaded: "Please don't rush into a disposal of the Old Vic — give all the rest of us a chance to come forward with high-quality proposals."

Mr Mirvish said yesterday: "I'm glad I listened to the minister... I thought that anyone who can get elected was a wise man and we should listen to him. We were patient."

Mr Mirvish added that he would be an honorary trustee. But he added: "I've had my turn. Now it's the turn of the new management."

The trustees, chaired by Alex Bernstein, the former chairman of Granada, will include Stephen Daldry, director of the Royal Court, and Sally Greene, the impresario.

She said yesterday that Mr Smith's speech had inspired her to try to save the theatre. The trust is to be responsible for both the building and the

programming. Daldry hopes to stage productions by the Peter Hall Company, the Donmar and the Almeida, bringing their successes to wider audiences: "The Old Vic needs once again to be the creative powerhouse behind British theatre. The charitable status will place it in a position to stage the best work in the country."

Hall's production of *Amadeus* will open in October. The theatre, near Waterloo station, opened in 1818 and was known as the Royal Coburg. It drew local citizens who had neither the income nor any particular wish to go to the West End. Renamed the Royal Victoria Theatre in 1833, it was soon nicknamed the Old Vic. In 1879 it became the Royal Victoria Coffee Music Hall, where the manager, Emma Cons, presented "purified entertainment with no intoxicating drinks". Cons was joined by her niece, Lilian Baylis, in 1896, and Baylis took over as manager in 1912.

Under Baylis — who later reopened Sadler's Wells for opera and ballet — the Old Vic became a home of Shakespeare. From the 1920s the greatest actors trod its boards: Laurence Olivier, Sibyl Thorndike, John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, Michael Redgrave, Peggy Ashcroft, and Vivien Leigh. The National Theatre under Olivier's directorship was based there. Under the Mirvishes, with Jonathan Miller's artistic directorship between 1987 and 1990 and, most recently, Hall's revival of the classical repertoire. Both tenures ended

abruptly when productions did not make the expected profits.

Yesterday Sir Peter said: "It is wonderful news that the Old Vic is now in trust for future generations. We have to thank Chris Smith for his encouragement. David Mirvish for his generosity and the trustees for their vision." Sir John Gielgud

said: "I am extremely glad to hear it's been saved. The Canadian man who restored it so beautifully did such a fine job. It seemed awful that it should go dark. I was terribly afraid that it would."

Sir John, now 94, recalled two seasons early in his career, in 1929 and 1930, when his roles included Richard III

— "the first part that I had a personal success in". He had appeared at the Old Vic as an unpaid extra while at drama school.

He said that Baylis "knew nothing" about Shakespeare, but thought it would be a good idea to stage his plays, particularly as "there was no royalty or copyright. She was a canny old bird."

Mirvish interview, page 35

John Gielgud as Mark Antony in 1930



The building now called the Old Vic opened in 1818



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# Mandela plays Communists as economy sinks

FACING mounting economic problems and a collapsing rand, President Mandela shocked his South African Communist Party (SACP) allies by flatly rejecting their calls for a change in government policy and virtually accusing them of treachery to the African National Congress.

The President, a guest speaker at the Communists' tenth congress, listened to attacks on government policy then simply discarded his set speech — "prepared for me by my bosses" — and waded in. "If the SACP goes public and not only attacks what we consider a fundamental policy but ridicules it, they must be aware of the implications."

He left the hall to applause, but delegates were stunned. Jeremy Cronin, the party's deputy leader, said it would stick to its guns. "We expounded our view frankly, and that is what the President did. He is a different sort of politician, he speaks from the heart."

For nearly three weeks now, gloom over the economy has deepened as the rand has slid to successive new lows. Once trading at two to the pound, it fell to more than four after the political crisis of the 1990s and, by the time the ANC came to power in 1994, British tourists could get five. Repeated cur-

**Tumbling rand adds to gloom,**  
**R. W. Johnson**  
**reports from**  
**Johannesburg**

rency crises under the ANC Government saw the rand fall to eight early this year, but in the past month the drop has been vertiginous; yesterday the currency traded at 10.26 to the pound. The Reserve Bank has reacted by jettisoning means — selling off some of its tiny reserves in a hopeless attempt to support the rand, pushing up interest rates to 20 per cent, then back to 18 per cent and then up again to 23.5 per cent.

These defences — together with some remaining, though weak, exchange controls — are all the weapons the bank has, and they are not enough. Meanwhile, the effect of these savage interest rate rises — with inflation at 5 per cent, the real interest rate is now 18 per cent or more — has been to kill off all hope of economic growth and to create the prospect of a further recession in which the already moun-

tainous unemployment figures will rise fast again.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation portrays the rand's fall alternately as an unfair contagion spreading into all emerging markets from Asia or the dastardly work of ruthless speculators. In fact, a low gold price that reduced Asian demand for South Africa's raw materials, the country's uncompetitively high wage rates and a general lack of confidence in the Government have all played a part. The single greatest fact is the Government's failure to create an economic environment to entice desperately needed foreign investors.

South Africans are confused — but are in no doubt about the dire effect of the crisis on their pockets. For mortgage holders an interest rate of 18 per cent was causing numerous defaults and a sharp fall in property prices everywhere but Cape Town. The prospect of 23 per cent or more is barely thinkable, and certainly unpayable. Moreover, all foreign holidays already cost 25 per cent more than last year and the price of imported goods is escalating out of reach. This is particularly striking in the case of motor cars — and South Africa is as car-based as America. Even

before the crisis it was common to find people spending a third of what their house was worth to buy a car.

Not all the news is bad: the rand's fall is the miracle that the gold, diamond, platinum and coal mines were waiting for. Those commodities are sold for dollars and their costs are paid in rands. A very large

number of mining jobs have thus been saved in the past month and more may be created. South Africa also becomes one of the world's cheapest tourist destinations.

There are less observed effects. Many South Africans, not all white, have quietly built up illegal assets abroad. The currency crisis causes

them to heave a sigh of relief but, even more, to panic at the thought that the rand's decline may cut them off from the chance of emigration to where the assets are held.

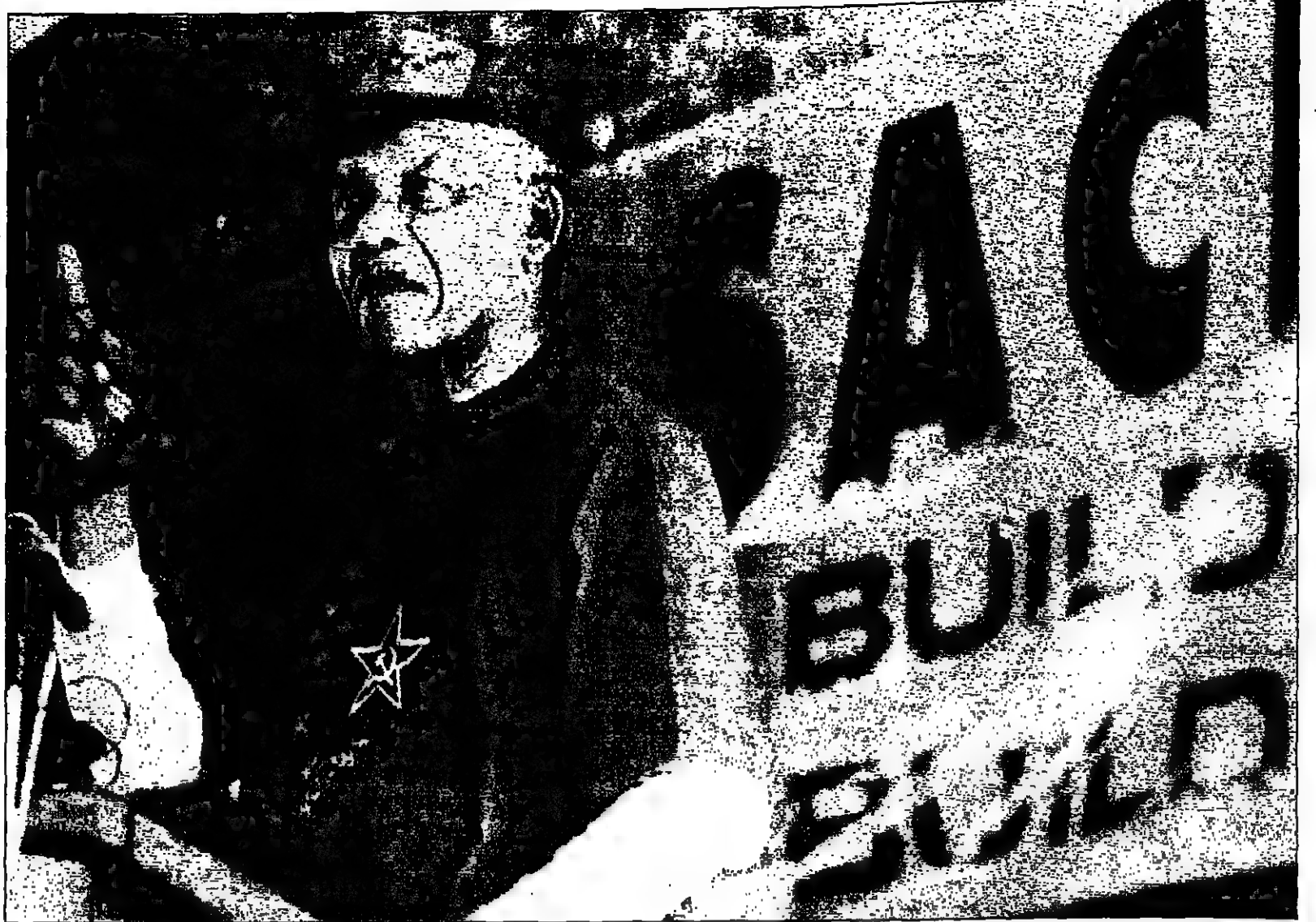
Until President Mandela came down hard yesterday to reaffirm the Government's pro-market economic policy, its response to the crisis had

been muffled. Its task will not be made easier, for the benefits of devaluation will be lost unless a firm hand is kept on wage inflation.

But this, in turn, is bound to create strife with the Government's partners in the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). The last thing the Government wants

in the run-up to the April 1999 election is a wave of strikes and renewed pressure from its SACP and Cosatu partners to abandon that policy. But equally, the slightest hint that the Government might give ground will set the rand tumbling again.

Soros suspected, page 28



A furious President Mandela delivers an unscripted riposte after South African Communist Party members attacked his economic policy

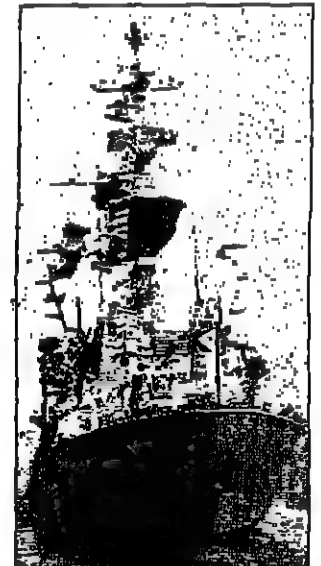
## Israel plans defence shake-up to combat Arab missile threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S top military and intelligence experts are conducting the most sweeping overhaul of the country's national security doctrine since the 1950s to prepare it to face its biggest modern threat — long-range missile attack with non-conventional warheads.

The review, conducted at a secret location, became public after one of the army's most senior officers issued a stinging attack on the present doctrine. Major-General Matan Vilnai, the Deputy Chief of Staff, who retired yesterday, issued his warning at a Defence Ministry ceremony in Tel Aviv.

"Today we can say with complete confidence that our security doctrine is not updated and probably does not provide answers to threats developing against Israel," Major-General Vilnai said on Sunday. "There are many changes in our surrounding



The new Israeli Jaffa patrol boat in Haifa

region and these are the basis for more changes. The pace is stunning."

The general, who called for a public debate on a new

national security blueprint, said that Israel's Arab foes had built arsenals of surface-to-surface missiles in the past seven years that threatened the country's population. The Israeli defence forces must "update everything".

In response to the criticism, Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, revealed the existence of the review. He said that military strategists had been working since last year on a new "security approach" that would be presented to the Cabinet and the Knesset for approval. Mr Mordechai said: "Never has a more serious and fundamental work been done to develop a defence doctrine."

□ Beirut: A Hezbollah guerrilla was killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a massive dawn raid by the Muslim extremist group on the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon (Nicholas Blanford writes). The fighting broke a lull of more than a month.

*Have you read the agenda  
for the all-staff meeting, Bob?*

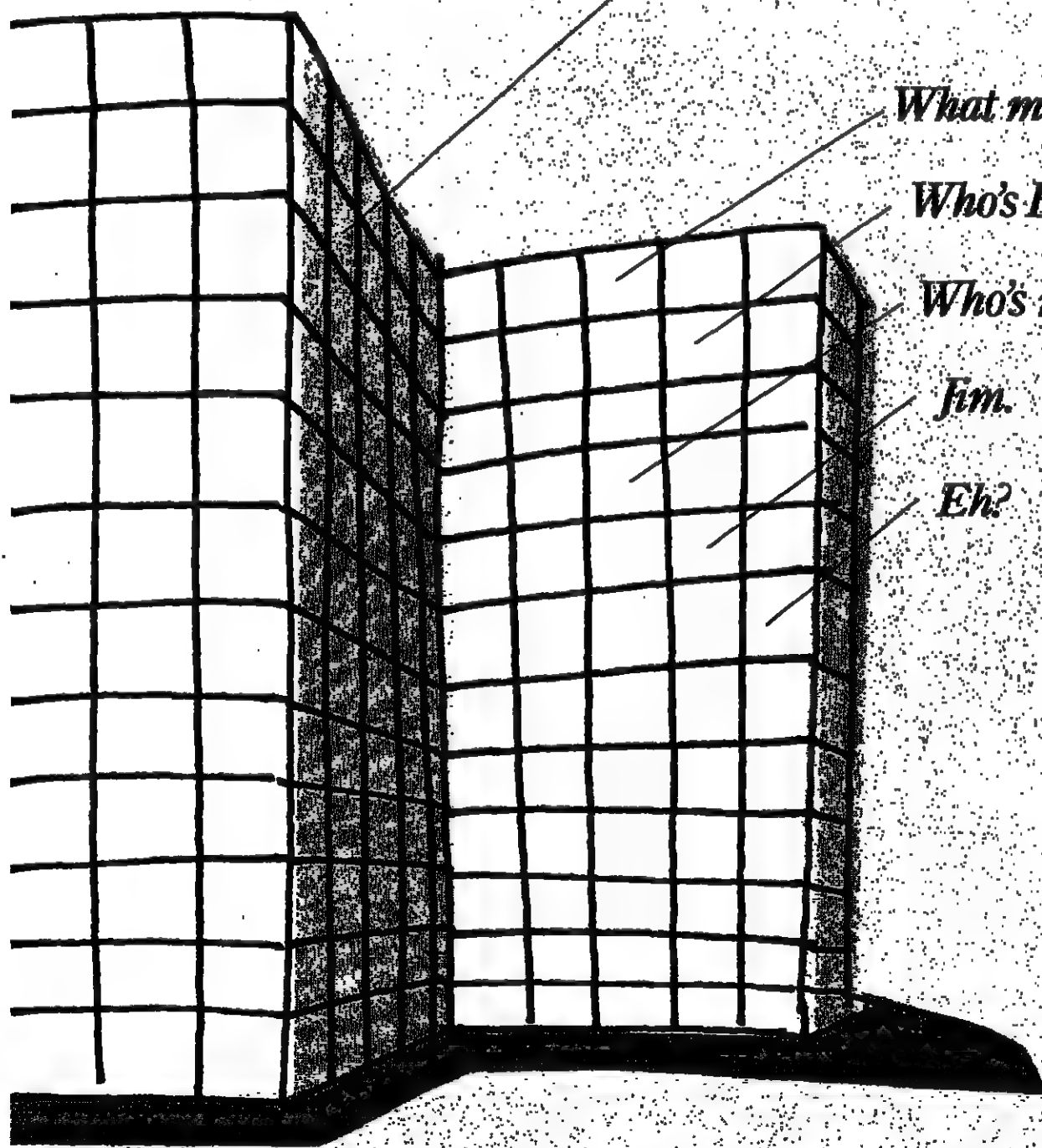
*What meeting Jim?*

*Who's Bob?*

*Who's meeting Bob?*

*Jim.*

*Eh?*



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THE SUNDAY



# Abiola to renounce presidential claim

CHIEF Moshood Abiola, the man whom many Nigerians regard as their country's rightful President, has indicated he will renounce his longstanding claim to the leadership.

Chief Abiola, in detention since declaring himself head of state in 1994, is one of scores of political detainees whose release is expected shortly.

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, who has completed a three-day visit to Nigeria, said yesterday that he expected Chief Abiola's release to be unconditional.

The detention of the 61-year-old politician has been seen as the main stumbling block in Nigeria's promised return to civilian and democratic rule. Chief Abiola's fate was discussed at an emergency meeting of the Nigerian Cabinet yesterday.

Mr Annan said he was told by Chief Abiola on Tuesday: "I'm not naive enough to make assumptions that I'm going to come out and be President."

Chief Abiola, generally believed to have won the annulled 1993 presidential election, was imprisoned for treason by the late military ruler, General Sani Abacha, the following year.

His prolonged detention came from his refusal to give up his claim to the presidency. The announcement that he has softened his position since the rise to power last month of General Abdulsalam Abubakar will come as a shock to his many supporters. The new

The release of prisoners could bring Nigeria back into the international fold, David Orr writes from Abuja

ruler of Africa's most populous nation has committed himself to holding democratic elections and returning Nigeria to civilian rule. What role Chief Abiola will play in that transition process is unclear.

There had been speculation that the military would make it a condition for his release that he promise not to engage in further political activity, but it now seems that he will be free to contest the promised elections.

Though not untainted by rumours of corruption, Chief Abiola, a southerner, is a



Annan: encouraged by new leadership

symbol for many dissatisfied Nigerians, particularly in the mainly Christian south, which feels itself marginalised.

However, as a Muslim, he is also acceptable in the north, the heartland of the military which has held power for all but ten of the 38 years of independence from Britain.

A millionaire businessman with dozens of wives and mistresses, Chief Abiola has recently been moved from solitary confinement to a comfortable villa in Abuja, the capital. Mr Annan discounted persistent reports that the jailed politician was in poor health.

"He was in very good health, he was alert," said Mr Annan, the first non-Nigerian to see Chief Abiola in four years. "I found him in some ways more realistic than some of us outside."

Mr Annan said Chief Abiola had confided in him that he was out of touch and that he no longer knew what his supporters were up to. "I want to get on with my life," he told Mr Annan. "And I know the world has moved on."

Nigeria's new leader has already set free dozens of political prisoners, among them General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former military

ruler and a vociferous critic of recent regimes. General Abubakar's promise to oversee Nigeria's speedy transition to democracy has been greeted warmly by the international community.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the release of prisoners was one of the key demands that Britain and its Commonwealth and European Union partners had made in the search to restore democracy and human rights in Nigeria.

This week's visits by the UN Secretary-General and by Chief Eneke Anyaoku, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, are being seen as indications that Nigeria's pariah status may be about to end. Nigeria was subjected to economic sanctions and suspended from the Commonwealth after the execution in 1995 of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other minority rights activists.

Mr Annan said yesterday that he had met several previous heads of state, as well as traditional rulers and prominent opposition figures, while in Nigeria. He declared himself "much encouraged" by what General Abubakar had done so far.

"Everyone I met wants the military to return to its proper role in a democratic society," said Mr Annan in Abuja, before leaving for his native Ghana.

However, a succession of military leaders has reneged on promises to return Nigeria to democracy.



Chief Moshood Abiola, who was jailed by the military regime of General Sani Abacha for refusing to renounce his claim to the presidency after the 1993 elections

## Tehran destroys £425m in drugs

By MICHAEL THEODOROU

IRAN, praised by the West for its determined war against drug traffickers, yesterday marked World Anti-Narcotics Day by publicly burning 50 tonnes of heroin, opium and morphine with a total street value of £425 million.

The ceremony was watched by President Khatami and Piro Arlachi, the head of the Vienna-based United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

Iran, which seized 200 tonnes of drugs of all kinds last year, has had to pay a heavy price for being on the front line against smugglers from the "Gold Crescent" in neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Nearly 2,500 Iranian soldiers and police have died over the past 15 years in battles with smugglers who are so well armed that they have managed to shoot down police helicopters.

Britain is supporting from a distance with financial aid. It is the main bilateral donor to the UNDCP programme in Iran, having contributed more than £2 million over the past three to four years.

## Nigerians face a perilous journey on the long road to democracy

By SAM KILEY  
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE announcement yesterday by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, that Nigeria's military had agreed to free all political prisoners, including Chief Moshood Abiola, is the first step on a path to democracy strewn with obstacles. One false move by General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who agreed to the release, could be fatal to himself and catastrophic for Nigeria.

Few observers of Nigeria's political scene doubt the sincerity of his desire to hand power back to civilians and return to the barracks.

As one senior member of his administration said this week: "It is becoming embarrassing to be in this job. I have a job that should be done by a civilian. The world does not look kindly on government by the military any longer."

But General Abubakar will have to cope with elements within the armed forces who want to hang on to power, appease angry supporters of Chief Abiola, who was the assumed winner of the annulled 1993 presidential elections, and contain the ethnic forces in a country of more than 200 tribes, many of which want to break away from the federal republic.

Ben Okri, winner of the 1991

### COMMENTARY

Booker Prize, said that his Nigerian homeland was "on the cusp of a wonderful transformation, but we will have chaos unless history is allowed to continue its course. Abiola should be appointed to head a transitional government at the very least."

Nigeria has had only brief flickers of civilian rule for most of its 38 years of independence from Britain. Each new administration, according to Dr Boko Ransome-Kuti, a campaigner for democracy who was released two weeks ago after years in solitary confinement,

"plunged to new depths of venality, incompetence and corruption". The regime of Sani Abacha, who died mysteriously on June 8, disgusted even his colleagues. He sailed away a fortune estimated at \$3.6 billion during five years in power. His last year was marked by his personal debauchery, drunkenness, diversion of state funds to his bank account and the use of state aircraft to pick up Indian prostitutes who serviced a dwindling clique of his supporters in his villa in Abuja.

In the meantime, a country that

supplies a tenth of Opec's oil was forced to import refined fuels after he ran down its domestic refineries in order to profit from import scams. Worse still for many officers was the entrapment of General Olopido Diya, General Abacha's second-in-command, who was implicated in a coup plot against his boss late last year and sentenced to death.

General Abubakar, who moved swiftly to fill the vacuum left by Abacha, appears to have won the argument among his own people that the army must get out of office. Retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, the only military leader to have handed power back to civil-

ians, said: "The military has to find a way to get out of power. They could face a massive civilian uprising if they fail."

He has launched a consultative process, involving opposition groups, religious leaders, traditional monarchs and "eminent persons" in an attempt to produce a transitional programme.

So far the only "step forward" in this scheme has been to persuade Chief Abiola to give up his claim to hold the presidential mandate. Yesterday Mr Annan said that the Chief had said he was not so naive as to think he would be able to emerge from detention and take over as President.

But it was because they supported precisely that view that the 300 or so political prisoners have spent years in jail.

Ken Wiwa, the son of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the author and Ogoni rights activist whose execution in 1995 by General Abacha caused Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth and its international isolation, said yesterday that the release of political prisoners was welcome, but "nothing to get too excited about". "Are there going to be elections?" he asked. "There is a danger that, in focusing on the release of prisoners, the international community is taking the heat off Abubakar."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## PLUS

Michael and Ralf Schumacher's Relative Values

Clerical terror at Westminster Abbey

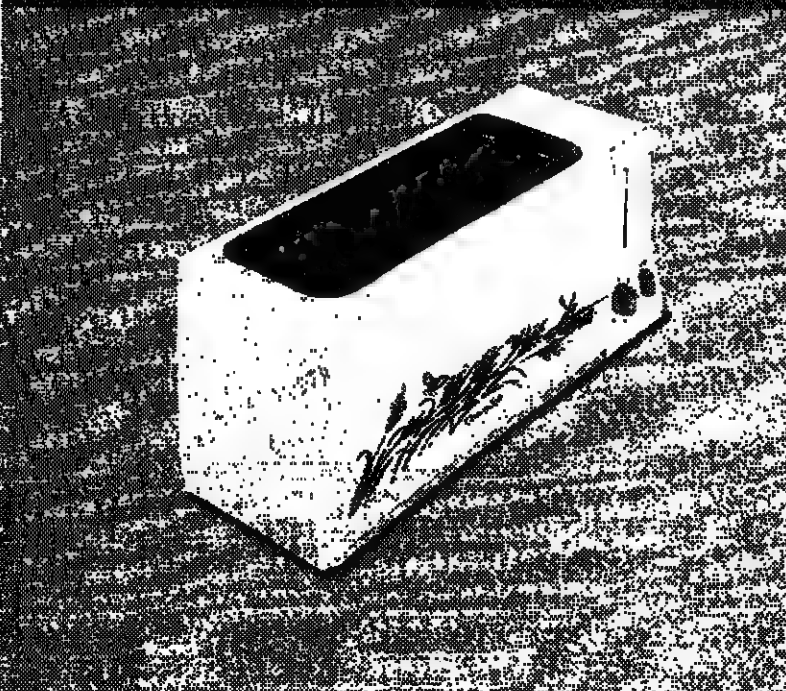
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# Pasteur 'stole vaccine credit from his rival'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

LOUIS PASTEUR, the great French scientist and founder of microbiology, may have stolen the idea for his anthrax vaccine from a lesser-known rival who died in obscurity without receiving credit for his discovery.

In 1881 a team of scientists under Pasteur triumphantly demonstrated the discovery of a vaccine effective against sheep anthrax, then endemic in Europe. The science behind the vaccine, however, was really the work of Jean-Joseph-Henry Toussaint, a fellow researcher at Lyons veterinary school, according to Nadine Chevallier of the University of Lyons.

This week Mme Chevallier presented her findings at the birthplace of Toussaint in the Vosges. In July 1880 Toussaint had discovered a way to make an effective vaccine by killing the anthrax bacteria using heat or antiseptic in such a way that only immunising agents remained.

Toussaint had tried to keep his findings secret to ensure his claim to the discovery was recognised, but he was forced by the French Academy of Science to reveal the technique. Pasteur held passion-



Pasteur: determined to prove own theory right

ately to the theory that the best way to produce a vaccine was to weaken or "attenuate" the live virus by exposing the bacteria to air or pure oxygen. Already famous and deeply controversial, Pasteur was under intense pressure to produce an anthrax vaccine quickly. His own vaccine was not ready, and as a result he appears to have secretly instructed his colleagues to use Toussaint's methods instead.

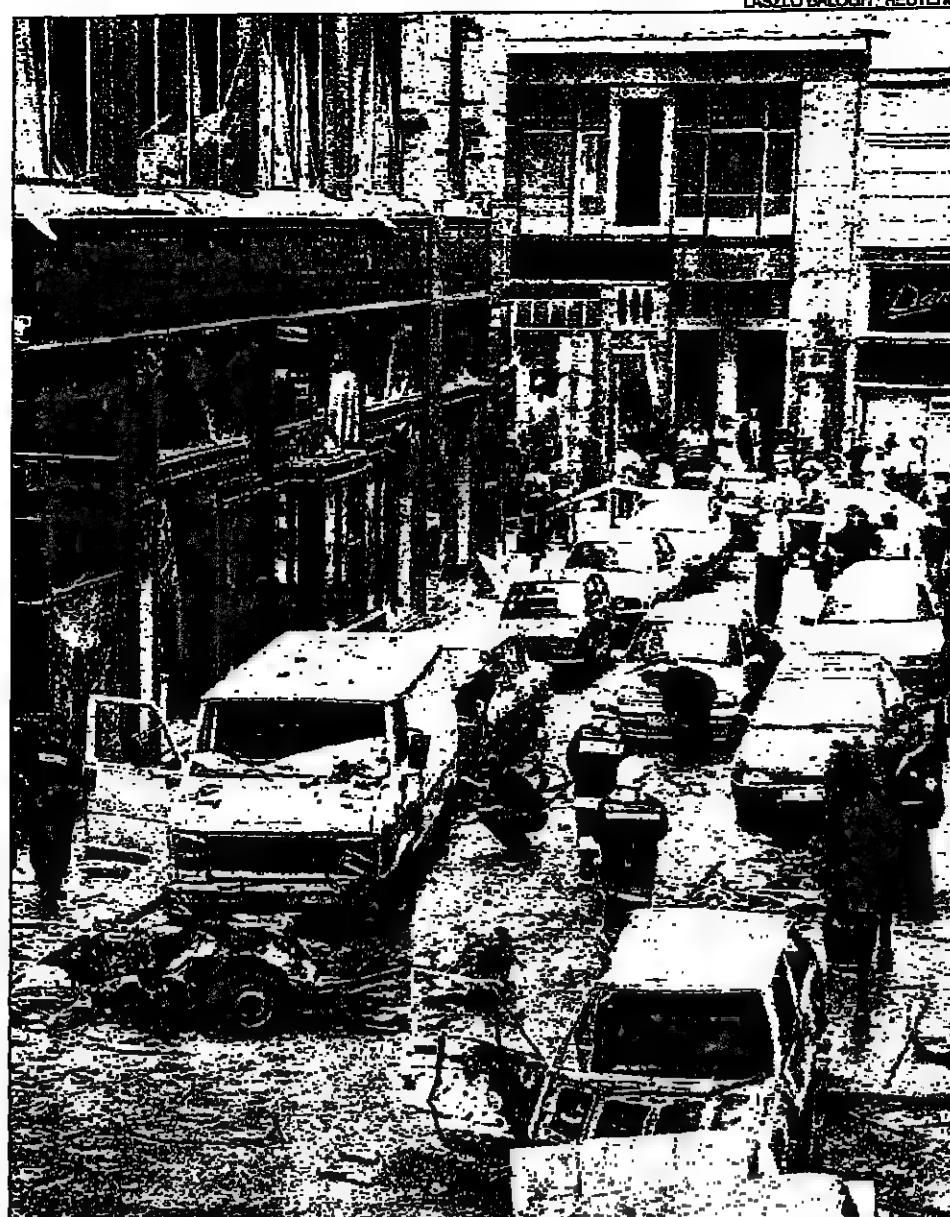
On May 5 1881, according to laboratory notes, Pasteur instructed his team to inject 25 sheep with an anthrax culture treated with the antiseptic potassium bichromate, precisely the chemical recom-

mended by Toussaint. "While I am alive, you will not publish this before discovering a way to weaken the bacteria with oxygen. Look for it!" wrote Pasteur, determined that his own theory would eventually be proved right.

A few weeks later the 25 vaccinated sheep and another 25 without immunisation were injected with anthrax virus. On June 2 the scientific community, local officials and journalists, including the Paris correspondent for *The Times*, assembled to witness the results of Pasteur's experiment. Sure enough, the vaccinated sheep were healthy, while the other half of the flock was dead or dying from anthrax.

Pasteur took full credit for the breakthrough without once mentioning Toussaint, but Gerald Geison, a historian at Princeton University, has concluded that the sheep anthrax vaccine was made from bacteria rendered inactive by antiseptic, à la Toussaint, rather than from a live but weakened virus, à la Pasteur.

Several prominent figures leapt to Toussaint's defence, but to no avail. Pasteur was elected to the Académie Française in the same year, and four years later he invented the rabies vaccine.



Emergency services at the scene of a bombing in Budapest which killed four people and injured 25, one seriously. A booby-trapped car exploded in the crowded upmarket Pest street just before lunchtime. An English-speaking tourist told

## Budapest bomb leaves four dead

Hungarian police her children had gone into McDonald's, on the left, and pleaded to be let through a barrier. The injured includ-

ed a German, a Finn, a Czech and two Syrians. The bomb's target, who died, was Jozsef Tamas Boros, 43, a police informer and restaurant owner. He had suffered six previous attacks. A woman was among the dead. (AFP, Reuters)

## Hard-up teller of fortunes fixed Gucci hit

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A NEAPOLITAN fortune teller told a Milan court yesterday that she was asked by the wife of Maurizio Gucci to find a hitman to kill the fashion mogul and confirmed that she had agreed to arrange his murder in 1995.

Pina Aurieremma, a stargazer who for 20 years was a friend of Patrizia Reggiani, said she had learnt that Gucci's estranged wife was planning to kill her husband in 1994 when Signora Reggiani asked her to meet on the pretext of helping her with a history of the Gucci dynasty that she was trying to write.

"Yes, it is true, Patrizia proposed that I organise the murder of Maurizio," she told the court. She agreed to the request because "at that time I was very hard up".

Asked why Signora Reggiani had selected a fortune teller to organise a murder, Signora Aurieremma said that the woman now dubbed the "Black Widow" thought she would have good underworld connections because of her roots in Naples, home of the Camorra, a Neapolitan version of the Mafia.

"In her northern head we southerners are all Camorristi," she said. "She thought I might know somebody suitable. And you have to understand that we told each other everything. We were like sisters." She said that she offered the

contract on Gucci's life to another defendant, Ivano Savioni, a hotel porter in Milan who was the husband of a Neapolitan friend. She chose him "because he was a penniless wretch like me".

It was agreed later that Signora Reggiani would pay between 500 million and 600 million lire (£170,000 and £200,000) in total for the murder and Signor Savioni negotiated an advance of 150 million lire in cash, paid in instalments of 25 million lire, she added.

As the advance was handed over, Gucci's wife put increasing pressure on her psychic friend for her accomplices to get on with the murder, she said. "Reggiani said that every day that passed was a day lost."



Aurieremma in court: "We were like sisters"

## 'Bosnia Gang' diplomat enters UN lions' den

BY MICHAEL DYNES

A LITTLE-KNOWN but key figure in the so-called "Bosnia Gang" of Western diplomats takes over as Britain's Ambassador at the United Nations this month after the departure of Sir John Weston.

Jeremy Greenstock, an affable and articulate career diplomat, is also a member of the generation of Bosnia hands who found themselves in the firing line after the break-up of Yugoslavia. They have since risen to positions of prominence in the world's foreign policy elites.

Mr Greenstock has spent most of the past seven years dealing with the horrors of the Balkans. Much of his effort has been devoted to co-ordinating US and European policy towards the troubled region, helping to bridge the policy gaps between them.

When, for example, the US was pressing for a "lift and strike" solution to the Bosnian imbroglio, it was Mr Greenstock who had to point out to the Americans that sending arms to the Bosnian Muslims and air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs would jeopardise UN troops on the ground. At the time, the US had no men on the ground.

"The US disliked the arms embargo against Bosnia," Mr Greenstock said. "Europe wanted a ceasefire and a

negotiated settlement. But we needed US power and energy to make it happen. It was simply a question of winning the argument."

Many of the diplomats Mr Greenstock will be dealing with, like him, have risen through the ranks on the back of Yugoslavia's disintegration.

Sir John is credited with playing a key role in getting Kofi Annan elected as UN Secretary-General, and in securing the appointment of Richard Butler as the UN's chief arms inspector.

On the minus side, he was also behind the blanket arms embargo on Sierra Leone, which culminated in the arms-to-Africa debacle — not one of

his greatest moments. Mr Greenstock takes over at a time when tensions inside the Security Council are at their highest since the end of the Cold War. The consensus behind ensuring that Iraq is deprived of all its weapons of mass destruction is in the process of breaking up.

Britain and the United States find themselves isolated on many issues, including Iraq, Libya and Kosovo, with France and an emboldened Russia blocking every move.

Bringing peace to Kosovo will be Mr Greenstock's greatest and most immediate challenge. But there will be many other issues to keep him working into the small hours — from the impending missile crisis in Cyprus to renewed fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

As a product of Harrow and Oxford, Mr Greenstock comes straight out of the Foreign Office's department of central casting. But there is no trace of the lofty disdain for which some of his colleagues are despised. He may well fall into the category of generic, well-trained diplomats, for which the Foreign Office is renowned. But compared with some of the more volatile personalities with big egos in the US State Department, perhaps that is no bad thing.



Greenstock was in the Balkans firing line

## Expanding Nato looks at plan for new £115m headquarters

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A NEW £115 million Nato headquarters, to be paid for by members according to the space taken up by their delegations, is expected to be the favoured option for the expanding alliance at a meeting in Brussels next week.

The present building, built 30 years ago as a temporary headquarters, is "falling apart" and cannot cope with the influx of 28 non-Nato countries which have partnership arrangements with the alliance and need office space, and the three new nations which will take up permanent residence as full members from April next year.

Next week Nato ambassadors will study two options for the future — a new building next door and an "adapt and maintain" strategy, which would involve adding to the present premises. Although there will be no final decision, the ambassadors are expected to prefer the new building, which would be cheaper over 20 years than enlarging the present HQ, and will ask for more analysis of costs.

Under this scheme, the Nato staff centre to the left of the headquarters, which consists of restaurants, leisure facilities and showers, would be demolished and replaced by the new building. "We'll

have to do without showers for several years," one Nato official said.

If the new headquarters is approved, work would probably begin in about 2000 and take up to four years to complete, according to Nato estimates. The old building would then be demolished.

The accommodation crisis started when Nato announced the Partnership for Peace programme for non-Nato countries, and subsequently formed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council which opened the doors of the Brussels headquarters to everyone from the Russians to the Latvians. Nato's enlargement programme, which will start with Poland, the Czech

Republic and Hungary joining next April, is also increasing the fight for space.

Financing a new building would be based on each member paying for the communal areas, such as the conference room and cafeterias, according to their share of the civil budget. In Britain's case, that represents nearly 19 per cent. However, every member would have to pay 100 per cent for the space allocated for its delegation.

The present creaking Nato headquarters is filled with about 3,500 people. One of the design requirements for a new building will be that it should be possible to add additional space for new members of the alliance.

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# Hong Kong's airport needs boom lift-off

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S vast new airport — once mired in political controversy — opened yesterday in an uncertain climate, both meteorologically and financially, given the economic maelstrom affecting Asia.

China's Communist rulers had opposed the creation of Chek Lap Kok, fearing Britain was making off with the family silver — Hong Kong's huge reserve assets — before handing over the colony.

Bill Clinton, the first incumbent US President to visit Hong Kong, landed at the airport only hours after it had been opened officially, emerging from Air Force One hand-in-hand with his wife, Hillary, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, was ahead of them — so becoming the first arriving international passenger to step on to the new tarmac.

President Jiang Zemin of China, on something of a

charm offensive in Hong Kong, had earlier formally inaugurated the £12 billion airport which, while unlikely to prove a white elephant in the long run, is coming on stream at the worst possible time.

Asian regional air carriers have cut back fleets and flights, tourism has slumped by 25 per cent. Hong Kong's property bubble has burst and even its people are keeping their wallets in their pockets.

With unemployment surging, stock market prices half what they were a year ago and Hong Kong having this week been declared the world's most expensive city — topping even Tokyo — the immediate outlook for the new airport could have been rosier, observers say.

"The timing could not have been worse," said one Hong Kong analyst yesterday of the project, which has taken seven years to reach its present, still

unfinished, state. Chek Lap Kok, which boasts the world's biggest passenger terminal — designed by Sir Norman Foster — is built on a partly reclaimed island 21 miles from central Hong Kong. It replaces the cramped Kai Tak airport, which is in the very heart of the city and has provided passengers with one of the most spectacular landing patterns anywhere: planes come in just above the teeming rabbit-hutch apartment buildings of Kowloon.

The airports are too close to have separate flight approaches. When Kai Tak closes on Sunday night, a huge transport operation by land, sea and air will get under way so that Chek Lap Kok can open smoothly the next morning with an in-bound Cathay Pacific flight from New York.

The 3,000 guests at yesterday's ceremonial opening included John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Another guest, Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, said Chek Lap Kok was an engineering feat that would give Hong Kong a state-of-the-art airport for the 21st century.

President Jiang surprised Hong Kong citizens by going on a walkabout of the kind Chris Patten, the former British Governor, used to make, before leaving for Beijing in wet and blustery weather.

Letters, page 23  
The media in China, page 41



Hong Kong's still unfinished Chek Lap Kok airport

## Clinton preaches his green gospel to a polluted China

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN GUILIN

THIS was the week in which President Clinton truly went green. Yesterday he threw himself into discussing environmental problems with Chinese villagers, with a passion that suggests that green issues will now rocket up the agenda at home.

In Guilin, celebrated for thousands of years in Chinese paintings for its breathtaking scenery, Mr Clinton offered a melody of homely tips. "In our country, they have light bulbs which cost twice as much but last four or five times as much. That might be something you should look at." The Administration has remained coy, however, about the larger-

scale schemes that China is employing in the name of urgency: the words "nuclear power" and "Three Gorges Dam" were absent from the speech yesterday.

Villagers saw a side to Bill Clinton now rarely on show at home. Monica Lewinsky and other scandals have made him retreat from what he does best: forging a rapid empathy with ordinary people. In a meeting with local environmental experts, he threaded his conversation with phrases such as: "What do you think? I'd like to hear your suggestions."

His new passion seems to have been triggered by the sight of this catastrophically

polluted country. In Beijing, street signs on the opposite side of a six-lane road are invisible through the smog, caused mainly by coal burning at home and in power stations. Hillary Clinton toured a children's hospital there, seeing a row of 50 babies immobilised by asthma. Mr Clinton's concern also springs from the likelihood that China's emissions of carbon dioxide will soon exceed those of any other country.

Stretching truth in the name of diplomacy, Mr Clinton said yesterday: "China is already making impressive steps to help its environment." He urged the Chinese to jump a stage in technology, taking advantage of new energy-efficient inventions.

One of the quickest answers to China's air pollution would be to replace its coal-fired power stations with nuclear power. But America's sale of nuclear power plants to China, approved by Mr Clinton this year, caused controversy because of concerns about waste and military security.

The US and the World Bank have also refused to condone China's Three Gorges Project, the damming of the Yangtze River, which will force a million people to relocate. China says the dam is justified by electricity and water needs.

Letters, page 23

## Hong Kong democrats sworn in

Hong Kong's Martin Lee, the leader of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, was sworn in to the territory's newly elected legislative council yesterday, ending a year in the political wilderness.

The new 60-seat legislature was sworn in en masse, with Mr Lee and his colleagues returning to the body they were kicked out of at the end of British rule last July.

Mr Lee and his democratic allies hold just 20 seats despite securing two thirds of the popular vote in May's elections, the first under Chinese rule. They claim that the electoral system, where most members were voted in by special interest groups, was specifically designed to keep them from forming a majority on the law-making body.

"We promise to fight for democracy in our campaign. We do not see democracy and economic issues as mutually exclusive; they are interdependent," Mr Lee said before the ceremony. "Only a democratic government can guarantee the rule of law." (AFP)

## Prehistoric man's soul of fashion

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE natives of North America were wearing stylish sandals and slippers more than 8,000 years ago, carbon-dating has shown.

The complex weave and design of the shoes indicates that prehistoric men and women were fashion-conscious and that their tastes were catered for by craftsmen of considerable skill.

The shoes were dumped over thousands of years by people who lived in a cave in the Missouri River bluffs in Calloway County, Missouri.

First excavated in the 1950s, the shoes have never been properly dated because they were jumbled up with piles of rubbish 10ft deep. Traditional carbon-dating could not be used without sacrific-

ing substantial amounts of the plant fibres and leather of which the shoes are made.

A team from Louisiana State University and the University of Missouri has now used a less destructive method — accelerator mass spectrometer dating.

Like carbon-dating, this method measures how much carbon-14 in the specimen has decayed, but requires only milligrams rather than a gram or more of sample.

Reporting in *Science*, Dr Jenna Kuttruff and colleagues say the oldest piece of footwear is a sandal dating from 8,000 years ago. Made of woven grasses, it was held on the foot by straps. By about 5,000 years ago, slip-

ons of woven fibres appear, with round toes and round cupped heels. The fibres come from a plant called *Eryngium yuccifolium*, or rattlesnake master, named for the supposed anti-venom properties of its leaves. Moccasin-like slippers made of leather were the last to appear, around 1,000 years ago.

These were made of a single piece of leather, folded up to form the sides and back, and fitted with holes for a lace. They were lined with grass. Holes in them were repaired carefully.

One shoe is a perfect men's size 9½, while a child's moccasin, apparently lost, is almost new.

The collection was unearthed in the 1950s. Anal bones, stone tools, and fragments of pottery showed that the cave's occupants ranged from early hunters-and-gatherers to later agricultural peoples.

They lived in the cave, and generations of them over thousands of years threw away their used shoes, which were preserved by the dryness of the cave. The different styles may also indicate social distinctions.

"In modern society we show our status and individuality through our clothing," says Dr James Peterson, an archaeologist at the University of Vermont. "But one would not have guessed that, in prehistoric North America 8,300 years ago."

One of the shoes found proved a perfect size 9½



A 6½-in-long leather moccasin with perforations around the top for a lace, and lined with grass



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# Funny Girl has last laugh on paparazzi

SELDOM can two stars dependent on the adoration of the outside world have shut it out with such a conspicuous lack of grace.

Held on her magnificent oceanfront estate, Barbra Streisand's marriage to James Brolin, a television actor currently appearing in the series *Pensacola: Wings of Gold* but whose career has flagged in recent years, had the makings of a Hollywood classic. But as teams moved in to clean up after them yesterday, it was clear that the West Coast wedding of the summer had turned into a grim study in control; a rare opportunity for old-school glamour eclipsed by outright paranoia towards the press.

It could have been delightful, set among the art deco treasures of her Malibu home as the sun set over the Pacific and 100 famous guests inhaled the perfume of white orchids and lilies of the valley.

There was a sumptuous dinner, dancing to a 16-piece string orchestra and cocktail party around Streisand's cliff-top pool. Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks mingled with John Travolta and David Geffen, the recording billionaire. Even Roger Clinton was on hand to represent his brother, the President, a close Streisand friend detained on other business in Shanghai.

The affair was no doubt worthy of Tinseltown's best-known perfectionist — but the whole affair was shrouded in almost unprecedented secrecy and did little for her standing in the neighbourhood.

An extraordinary campaign to scare off reporters and photographers from Streisand's driveway began at 3pm on Wednesday with loud jungle noises broadcast from a bank of speakers set up in the bushes either side of her main gate. At 5pm the rainforest chirpings gave way to hours of high-decibel heavy metal by a band known as White Zombie. By nightfall, at least one local resident had had enough. "Not to take away from her day, but she's a..." — and here the neighbour's words became unprintable.

The wedding — Streisand's second and Brolin's third — had been breathlessly anticipated in Hollywood ever since



Giles Whittell reports on the marriage of Barbra Streisand to a television star at her paradise home on the Pacific

the pair's first meeting on a blind date exactly two years earlier. When it came, it did so with elaborate stealth that bordered on neurosis.

According to Army Archerd, the senior columnist at *Daily Variety*, all 80 "A-list" guests were notified of the event by telephone at the last minute, and were asked to sign confidentiality agreements barring them from leaking details of the wedding to the press.

Caterers and other suppliers had to sign similar undertakings, and delivery drivers were light-tipped as vans and lorries shuttled up the coast highway to Zumirez. Drive from Tuesday onwards. Here, at the entrance to Malibu's lush Point Dume promontory, reporters set up camp and noticed a last-minute panic

over mineral water. An entire shipment of an Italian brand was returned to the warehouse and replaced with a better-known French one with half an hour to go. A large delivery of low-alcohol beer meanwhile fuelled rumours of a less-than-lively night.

Celebrities accustomed to being delivered door-to-door by limousine were made to park half a mile from the heavily-guarded Streisand compound. They were taken the remaining distance in tinted-glass mini-buses that pulled up behind a larger van parked to obscure the view for paparazzi.

Streisand, almost as famous for her distrust of the press as for her songs and films, has been inseparable from the bronzed and brawny Brolin

for the past two years. He reportedly proposed as many as five times, but was formally accepted only when he found "the perfect ring" last year.

Despite the presence of Baptists such as Mr Clinton and Scientologists including Travolta and his wife, Kelly Preston, the pair were married in a short Jewish ceremony in the main living room of the Streisand estate, which boasts three separate homes and unrivalled views of the Pacific.

Dick Guttman, the diva's publicist, had asked helicopters working for photographers and television stations to withdraw so that guests could hear the couple's "sacred vows". His plea was only half-heeded. As at Elizabeth Taylor's infamous wedding to Larry Fortensky on Michael Jackson's ranch six years ago, the proceedings were accompanied by the muffled roar of high-powered turbines.

Afterwards, the paparazzi were foiled again. As guests prepared to leave, security guards shone arc-lights into their lenses to ruin any candid shots. One seasoned photographer moaned that the only pictures of the bride were taken from boats bobbing offshore — and he had left his in the dock.

Streisand's first husband was Elliott Gould, the actor. As she and her second husband depart for their honeymoon, reportedly to Barbados, they will have the satisfaction of knowing that, unlike Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley, who fled to the Dominican Republic to be married out of the media glare, they managed to tie the knot at home. They also avoided the ultimate insult — of being ignored by the media.

□ **Passion killer:** California's time-honoured ritual of teenagers "making out" in cars in which they have just learnt to drive is threatened by the Teenage Driver Safety Act, which has just become law. It bars new teenage drivers from travelling with passengers under 20 for the six months after obtaining a licence. The act also bans teenage drivers from taking to the roads between midnight and 5am for the first year. The law aims to reduce teenage drink-driving accidents.



James Brolin and Barbra Streisand last week at the premiere of her film *The Mirror Has Two Faces*



John Travolta and his wife Kelly were among the guests who were invited at short notice to avoid news leaks, then asked to sign confidentiality agreements before attending the wedding at the Streisand mansion in Malibu, above

## AMERICAN SUMMARY

### Swiss fury over bank sanctions

New York: The states of New York and California have announced sanctions on Swiss banks after the collapse of talks on compensation for Holocaust victims (James Bone writes). Other states are expected to follow suit after an 800-strong commission agreed to lift a moratorium on sanctions. Ulrich Pfister, a spokesman for the Credit Suisse Group in Zurich, said: "Sanctions are unjustified and counter-productive. We will study all measures we can take."

The Swiss banks last month offered to make a contribution of \$600 million (£364 million) to a fund for Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

### US jet crew may be tried

Washington: A military judge has recommended that the pilot and navigator of a Marine jet that killed 20 people when it hit a cable-car wire in Italy should face court martial on negligent homicide charges (Tom Rhodes writes). Lieutenant-Colonel Ronald Rodgers said Captain Richard Ashby, 31, and Joseph Schweizer, 30, should be charged with dereliction of duty and destruction of government property.

### Strip victim brings suit

New York: A man who visited a strip club in Clearwater, Florida, on his stag night two years ago has sued the establishment for \$15,000 (£9,000) in damages (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Paul Shimkonis, 38, claims that Tawny Peaks, a stripper with a 69in bust, gave him serious whiplash injuries when she thrust her bare breasts in the direction of his face.

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CHANGING TIMES



# Disabled condemn FDR to wheelchair

PRESIDENT Franklin Roosevelt, who never used a wheelchair in public and insisted that his disability be hidden from the outside world, is to be depicted sitting in one at the sprawling memorial that bears his name.

After months of heated controversy over the new statue, Al Gore, the Vice-President, yesterday announced the addition of a casually dressed FDR at the memorial's entrance, seated in a mode he had always shunned in life.

When the memorial was opened 14 months ago, disabled groups loudly protested that a wheelchair had not been included in either of the site's two sculptures of the wartime President who was paralysed from the waist down by polio when he was 39.

Critics of the \$1.5 million (£930,000) project, including Curtis Roosevelt, one of his grandsons, have said the new statue will provide a false portrait of a man who persistently and successfully hid his paralysis from public scrutiny.

Mr Roosevelt said that his grandfather would never have approved of being shown in a wheelchair that he used so rarely in public.

He always made a point of sitting in chairs and cars or was escorted with the help of leg braces, a cane or his son's arm.

Most of his other descendants,

## Tom Rhodes on how political correctness is moulding a new statue of Roosevelt

however, have supported the change. "The reality is that he spent every single day of his life in the White House using a wheelchair," said Christopher Roosevelt, another grandson. "And when he did appear before groups of individuals that had faced adversity, he used his disability to inspire them."

A survey conducted in 1995 showed that 73 per cent of Americans believed Roosevelt's disability should be depicted in the memorial.

al, whose four "open rooms" tell the story of his four terms in office. Initially, however, activists could not persuade the FDR Memorial Commission to change its plans.

After they threatened to stage a protest at its opening in May last year, President Clinton submitted legislation calling for the addition and Congress agreed. The National Organisation on Disability has agreed to pay.

"It will be a tribute to a true

American hero who led our nation through its darkest days," said Mr Gore, evoking the Great Depression and the Second World War. "And it reminds us that disability is not a barrier to achievement."

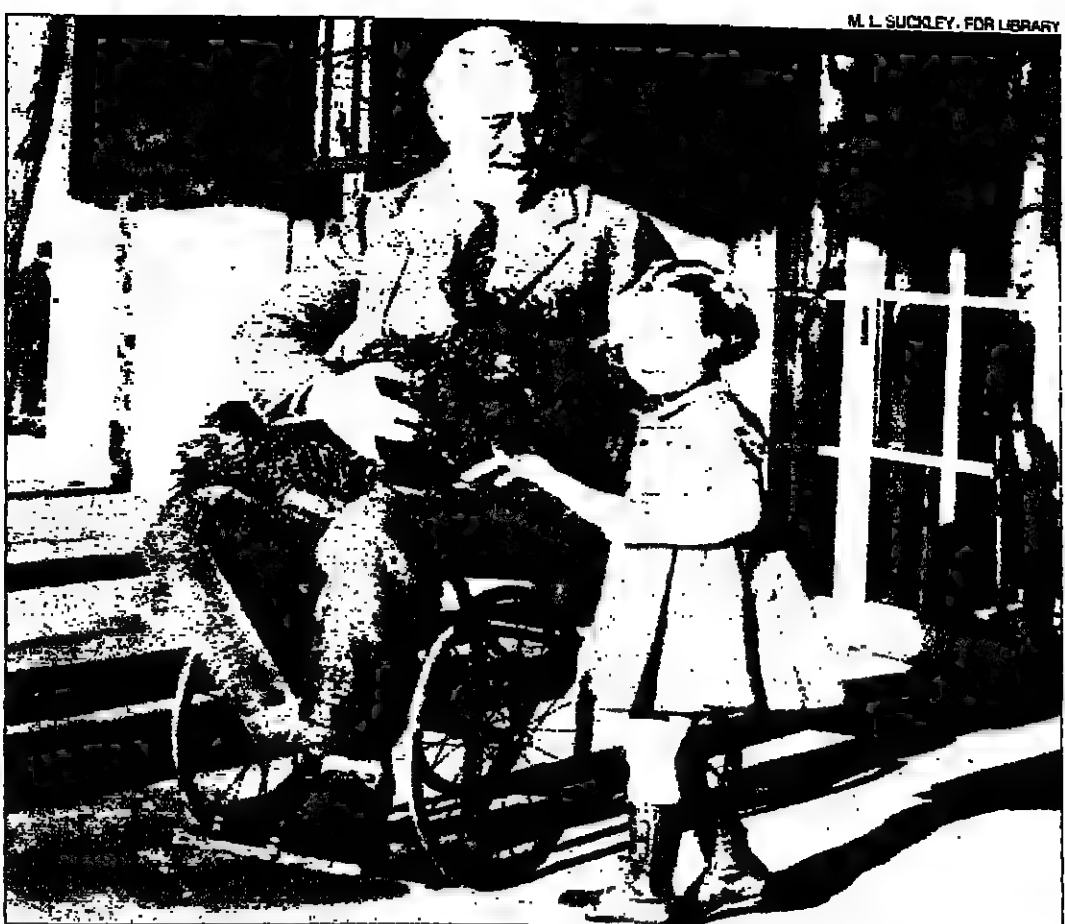
The Administration has selected Robert Graham, who created some of the memorial's existing sculptures, to design the statue.

He will base it on a photograph of FDR with his beloved black Scottie, Fala, and Ruthie Bie, daughter of the caretaker at his estate in Hyde Park, New York. It is one of only two known photographs of Mr Roosevelt in a wheelchair.

Mr Graham will work with John Benson, a stone carver, and Lawrence Halprin, the Californian landscape architect who designed the memorial of granite, water and bronze on a 7.5 acre site between the Potomac River and Washington's Tidal Basin.

The memorial currently shows the President in a normal chair whose small wheels are obscured by his cape. In a bow to political correctness, the trademark fur stole that was worn by Eleanor Roosevelt and FDR's ubiquitous cigarette holder are not included.

The announcement yesterday brought swift approval from the disabled. "This is going to be the icon of the disabilities rights movement, and it is going to be unique," said Hugh Callagher, an activist.



New statue will be based on this photograph of FDR with dog and caretaker's granddaughter

## Florida prays for a storm to douse fires

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE worst forest fires in Florida for 57 years, currently raging over 250,000 acres in the state's northern counties, are likely to be put out only by a tropical storm, experts said yesterday.

Lia Compton, the spokeswoman for Bob Crawford, the Agriculture Secretary, said: "We had 73 new fires start just on Tuesday." Steve Parsons, a US Forest Service official, added: "It's going to take a good long soaking to bring this to an end. It's almost impossible to extinguish every ember."

As vast swaths of land were consumed in Volusia County — the hardest-hit part of the state — 30,000 people living in Ormond Beach, north of Daytona Beach, have been ordered to leave. In all, about 9,000 homes face being reduced to cinders, and the Interstate 95 highway — Florida's

main north-south route — has been closed for a 30-mile stretch.

To the dismay of residents and rescuers alike, a potentially rain-filled tropical wave, currently in the western Caribbean, appears to be moving towards Texas. A second tropical wave is said to have formed a few hundred miles east of the Windward Islands, but meteorologists say it is too early to bank on its bringing relief to a Florida that is parched and bone-dry.

Last month was the hottest June in the state's history, and the hottest month yet in the Tampa Bay area. The average temperature of 85.6F (30C) eclipsed the previous 85F record for the bay area set in August 1941.

Yesterday Lawton Childs, the state Governor, toured affected areas and ordered a ban on fireworks over the Fourth of July holiday. President Clinton, responding to the crisis from China, has declared the state a disaster area, allocating nearly \$35 million (£21 million) in federal aid to help state agencies to fight the fires and put up temporary shelters for those made homeless.

Inevitably, tempers have soared with the temperatures. On Wednesday a man was arrested in Volusia County after he tried to run over a deputy sheriff seeking to stop him driving towards his burning house. Michael Shimshack, who has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, was upset that his prized boat was burning.



One of the fires, which leapt across Route 1

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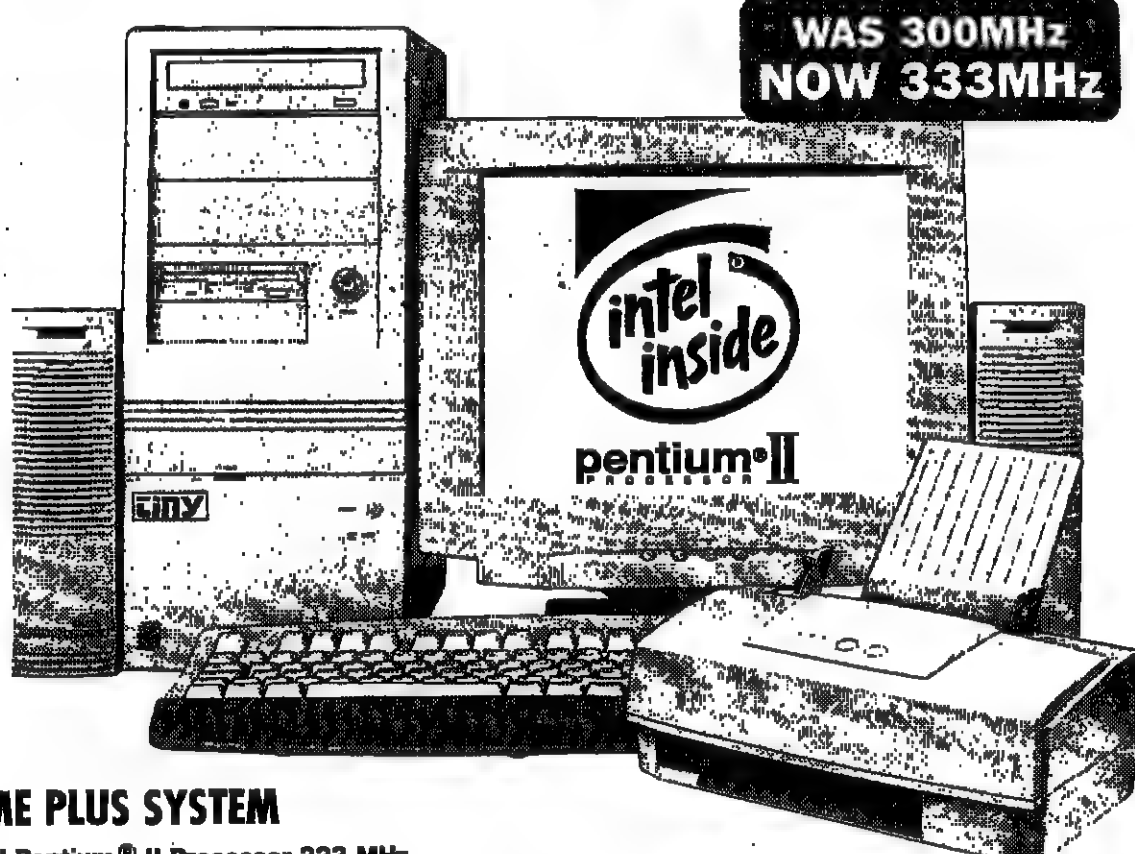
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## HOT TIP



Madonna has elevated the ancient art of mehendi, or painting with henna, to the height of fashion. A traditional symbol of love and happiness, the classic palm and foot decoration has been replaced with painted bracelets, anklets and shoulder ornaments. Henna tattoos can be applied in minutes and, with the right after-care, can last up to two weeks. Leading Asian beauty specialist Jushiv is at Spirit in Selfridges, designs range from £3.50-£25. (0171-629 1234)

For a subtle and delicate look, Shu Uemura has produced a range of pastel lip liners, eye shadows and pencils. Use yellow, green, blue, pink, orange, lilac or sugar white, finish the look with black mascara and the fine line of colour will delicately highlight your eyes. £8 each by Shu Uemura, Unit 16, Thomas Neal's Centre, 42 Earham Street, WC2. (0171-379 6627)

## Objects of desire



Delicately painted, these coloured glass Moroccan tea lights look beautiful scattered on window ledges and bookshelves, or outside on a balmy evening. Each contains a scented candle reminiscent of traditional Moroccan mint tea and, when lit, the pinks, blues and greens of the glass flicker against the wall. £6 each, available from Urban Outfitters, 36-38 Kensington High Street, London W8. (0171-761 1001)

## Reduced — to tears of joy



Keeping an open mind and never going to the first day of a sale are the keys to successful bargain-hunting

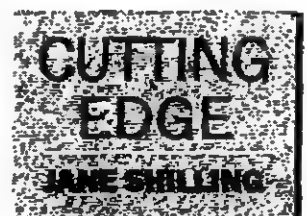
I love the sales. I couldn't get dressed without them. Something in me recoils at the thought of paying the recommended retail price for a garment that I know will be marked down by half in a matter of weeks. After so many years of assembling my wardrobe from the cut-price rails, I've evolved a philosophy of sales shopping, whose main tenets are: keep an open mind and don't go to the first day of any sale.

This second principle is not as perverse as it might seem. Successful bargain-hunting re-

quires a disciplined state of mind — you might call it the Zen of Pauper's Elegance. It is crucial not to fall prey to the schoolgirly mass hysteria that sweeps over entire department stores at sales time, and particularly on the first day. This is when you are most likely to find yourself being tackled from behind by some girl intent on snatching the Helmut Lang plastic mesh petticoat on which your own hand has momentarily come to rest. Before you know it, you have snatched it back, hustled it off to the changing room, told yourself it looks just as good on you as it did on Kate Moss and bought it, a snip at £35.

Almost equally unwise is to set your heart beforehand on one particular item. Inevitably, you will find it, but in the wrong size or wrong colour, or with a crucial button missing, and return home ratty and disappointed and be horrid to your husband, your children and your dog. Far better to set out optimistic, calm, open-minded and fully briefed, having memorised the page of Vogue on which the predictions for the new season are set out: long straight skirts, boatnecked sweaters, strapless dresses, tiny cardigans, tweed, cashmere, anything in blue-grey, silver or red. The sales are a particularly good source of two kinds of clothes — reliable classics and hysterical glamour. In both cases you are looking for the kind of quality that ordinarily you couldn't afford — luxurious fabrics and designer names to add grace notes to a wardrobe of high street staples. In the reliable classics de-

partment, Simpsons of Piccadilly has quantities of delectable cashmere: crew-neck argyle sweaters in sweetie shades for £149 (down from £245) and plain scoop-neck sweaters in a range of colours from crimson and dark green to almond, pale pink and a pretty deep raspberry for £115 (E164). A long, elegant egg-shell-blue Daks linen jacket is £219 (E319) and matching narrow pants £79 (E119). A navy



calf Kurt Geiger bag is capacious and elegant and costs £59 (E139). Yves Saint Laurent cream silk trousers are £188 (E269) and a single-breasted jacket is £342 (E495). At Fortnum & Mason an unstructured navy linen jacket by MaxMara Weekend is £130 (E198), perfect with the YSL cream silk pants and Sonia Rykiel's navy and cream wool trompe l'oeil jersey, knitted to look like a cardigan, £120 (E240). At Liberty, Regent Street, Margaret Howells classics are handsomely reduced. A puppy-tooth fine wool shirt-waist dress is £75 (E225), a Prince of Wales check wool wrap skirt £270 (E545) and a back-buttoned suede shift, £295 (E595). Side-zip white drill pants are £60 (E125) and navy cable-knit cotton sweaters £95 (E195). At Nicole Farhi

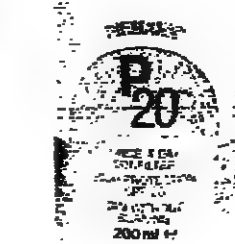
on Bond Street, a perfectly cut, proofed canvas mac is £340 (E449) and a dip-dyed silk shirt in a lovely combination of sky blue and chocolate brown £75 (E149).

On the hysterical glamour front I was sorely tempted by Saint Laurent's ivory silk shift with a navy lace border, £195 (E270) at Simpsons. At Fortnum's, Helen David's palest blue devore velvet shift with capids and hearts is irresistible at £260 (E395), and at Fenwick on Bond Street, Georgina von Esztori's velvet tunics are down to £99 from £350.

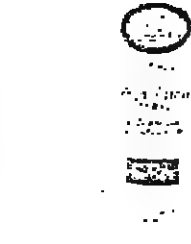
For wild eccentricity at improbable prices, Liberty is best. A rose-embroidered Elsiebeth Gibson jacket is £99 (E199), a cobweb lace Collette Dinnigan dress £315 (E529), Antonio Berardi's black and silver gypsy dress £255 (E515) and a silver mesh shift by Julien MacDonald £54 (E219). Even better is the Clearance Zone — full of the most amazing stuff for £75 or less. I coveted Helen David's pistachio silk palazzo pants £75 (E125) and double-layer ivory silk skirt £50 (E185), not to mention Paddy Campbell's almond wool crepe skirt, £25 (E119). But it was the Galliano that proved my undoing. A long, strapless black velvet column, with an internal corset and an endless row of hooks up the back — impossible to get into unassisted, and once you have got it on, you look like John Singer Sargent's *Portrait of Madame X*. I could hear my mother's voice ringing in my ears: "When would you ever wear it?" But there it was. A real-life Galliano for £75. Reader, I bought it.

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# Poets cry out for a commentary

Daniel Johnson wants critics to return to their sources

It has been a good week for the commentary. I refer, of course, not to the legions of commentators on the World Cup, Wimbledon or the Test match, but to John Fuller's *W.H. Auden: A Commentary* (Faber), well reviewed in *The Times* yesterday by Peter Ackroyd. For many scholars this 600-page gloss on Auden's poetry and drama would be a life's work, but Fuller is a distinguished poet, novelist and essayist in his own right. As the *genius loci* of Eng Lit at Magdalen College, Oxford, he has nurtured generations of writers with selfless generosity and painstakingly close reading of their juvenilia. An Oxford don of the old school, he remains plain Mr Fuller, typically modest in his disclaimer, after three decades' study: "There are limits to one man's understanding of such a polymath as Auden."

Fuller is right: his book reveals Auden as a truly cosmopolitan poet, whose vast range of sources was not unique among his older contemporaries — one thinks of Eliot, Yeats or his father-in-law, Thomas Mann — but begs comparison in the homogenised Europe of our time. The English man of letters was once necessarily also a European one; but because the species to which Auden belonged is now extinct, the need for a commentary such as Fuller's is urgent.

In Britain theory is still in the ascendant

Some of Auden's most memorable lyrical verse requires very little exegesis: Fuller gives *Stop all the clocks* (the elegy recited in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) one short paragraph. All comment is superfluous for that perfect blues pastiche. But some Auden poems are palimpsests of Western culture: so densely packed with metaphor and allusion that the texture is the text. Each stanza is a miniature version of his encyclopaedic commonplace book, *A Certain World*. Poets like this cry out for a commentary.

This is the true significance of Fuller's exposition: over and above his services to readers of Auden, he has revived the commentary as a vehicle of scholarship. It is high time. Because the page-by-page commentary requires a high degree of objectivity and humility, it has fallen out of fashion among ambitious academics. The apotheosis of the critic under the aegis of Postmodernism has led to the eclipse of traditional textual commentary. Publishers, too, prefer "companions" or other collections of articles, often remote in matter and manner from the author they are ostensibly elucidating, but useful to scholars under institutional pressure to be prolific.

Fuller's antithesis is another Oxford don, Terry Eagleton, who holds the most prestigious chair of English at the university. He has never written a book-length commentary on another author, and I hazard a guess that he never will. The professor is no mere commentator: he is a theorist. His works include *Criticism and Ideology*, *Marxism and*

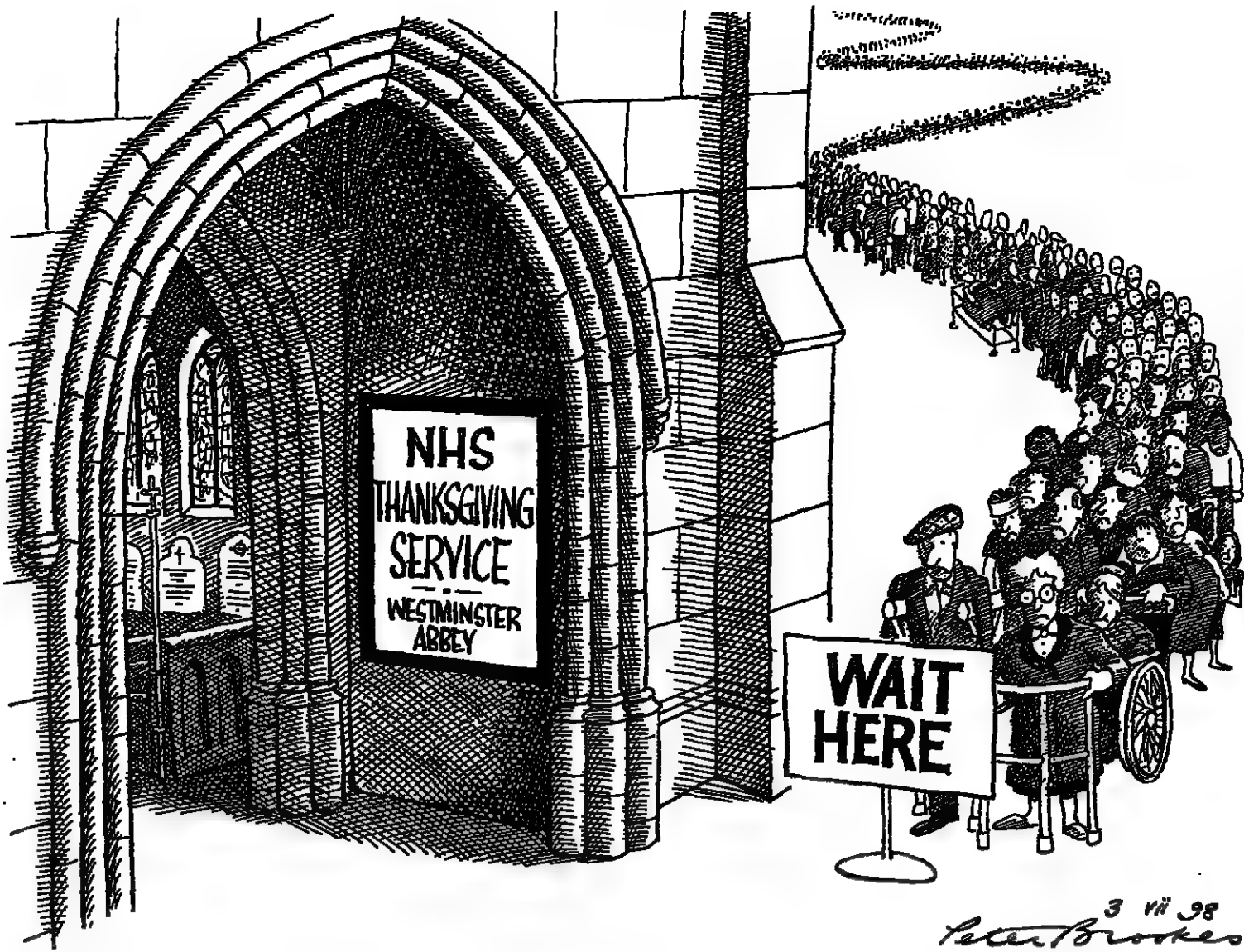
*Literary Criticism*, *The Function of Criticism*, *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*, *The Significance of Theory*, *Ideology: An Introduction* and (improbably) *The Illusions of Postmodernism*. Though he has written monographs on Samuel Richardson (*The Rape of Clarissa*) and the Brontës (*Myths of Power*), they are mostly about such topics as sexual politics, the class struggle and the Irish Famine.

One answer to all this is contained in another book published this week: *Intellectual Impostures* by Alan Sokal and Jean Bricmont (Profile). This little squib scandalised Parisian intellectuals when it appeared in French last year, because it demonstrated that some fashionable theorists are certainly pseudo-scientific and probably bogus. In Britain, the star of theory is still in the ascendant. Oxford recently downgraded Anglo-Saxon in favour of literary theory, if Eagleton is the model of a modern major critic — and I fear he is — then it may not be surprising that commentaries have become rare birds.

Yet as a literary form, the commentary has a glorious history. It originally meant an informal memoir or history, as in Julius Caesar's *Commentaries* on the Gallic Wars, but soon acquired its critical connotation with the explosion of biblical and other textual exegesis in the early Christian centuries. The medieval commentary reached its apogee at about the same time that Gothic architecture emerged: the early 12th century. St Bernard of Clairvaux, the most formidable churchman of that era, wrote a commentary on the *Song of Songs* in the form of more than 80 sermons. It is an intellectual edifice no less sublime than the 338 Cistercian abbeys founded by the time of his death, whose builders were inspired by his preaching.

In our day the concept of the commentary has generally lost its rigour: the idea that comment and facts are interdependent. We tend to echo unthinkingly C.P. Scott's crude adage: "Comment is free, but facts are sacred." The word "comment" just means "opinion": a leading New York journal of opinion does indeed call itself *Commentary*. But now and then the older idea resurfaces, as it has in John Fuller's homage to Auden. There are commentaries on most classical or medieval and many modern poets; why shouldn't more recent, even living, ones receive the same treatment? Are Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney, James Fenton and Geoffrey Hill less worthy of dissection in detail? And why only poets?

Above all, Fuller's book is useful, enhancing the pleasure of Auden's verse by enabling the untutored reader to grasp how the prosody works. One of Auden's last poems, the *Posthumous Letter to Gilbert White*, concludes: "I have, though, thank God, the right to read you." Auden would have been delighted with the excuse Fuller has given us to re-read him.



## Up the creek with Paisley

Tory policy on Ulster is not just an odious spectacle; it is also a serious mistake

It was the most odious spectacle this Parliament has produced. With Ian Paisley telling, a scattering of Tories walked through the "aye" lobby in support of an amendment which would have derailed Northern Ireland's Good Friday agreement. Defeated, the Principal Opposition joined Mr Paisley in force, voting against the whole measure on what looked like a two-line whip. The occasion was a stain on the name of the Conservative Party.

William Hague has got off lightly. The press has not woken up to the enormity of what he did; the Government's attitude has been a rather grown-up "least said, soonest mended". There is time for Hague to divert. But unless he rows back fast, the Tories may be swept up in an exceptionally nasty creek. It is not, repeat not, a good idea for the Principal Opposition to find itself aligned with Ian Paisley. To inflame the issue of arms decommissioning, and to undermine the pro-agreement parties in the House of Commons days before the first elections to a Northern Ireland Assembly was an act of shameful irresponsibility.

In embarrassing David Trimble at a time for him of terrible vulnerability, and in trying to trip and catch the Prime Minister out in the unavoidable ambiguities which such an hour requires, the Conservative Party has succumbed, in a way we can only hope is not a pointer of things to come, to its hooligan tendency. David Trimble, whom 90 per cent of Britain sees as some kind of a hero, has had a serious wobble at a raw point in Irish history, and I feel ashamed as a Conservative that my party helped to cause this.

One is reluctant to kick a man when he's ill, but this was William Hague's most serious mistake. It calls into question either his own judgment, or his Shadow Cabinet's teamwork. It certainly calls into question their calibre.

I still cannot quite believe it. British Tories now find themselves destabilising the leader of the Ulster Unionists — and doing so from the right. Mr Hague joins some of the most disliked politicians in Britain in snapping at the heels of a Prime Minister who has pushed forward the best thing John Major ever did. However did they get themselves into this? If you look closely enough at the press and ignore the wood, it is just possible to understand, though

never to approve. The issue concerns decommissioning. How directly can the release of prisoners be linked to the handing in of weapons? Everyone agrees the two are connected, but in the talks it was not possible to reach agreement on a mechanical link. This was well-known. Norman Tebbit made the point repeatedly before the referendum.

Every household was sent a copy of the agreement. Participants pledged their best endeavours to achieve decommissioning. That called for interpretation. This is how Tony Blair has put it: among the matters to "take into account" (my italics) when "clarifying" whether the terms and spirit of the agreement are being met and whether violence has genuinely been given up for good.

Mr Trimble knows his troops want more, but has stuck bravely to an understanding that there can be no "cherry-picking". Too bad that the Tories lack that courage. There is such a thing as honest ambiguity and this is a case in point.

The dishonest party in the subsequent controversy has been neither Tony Blair, whose careful ambiguity was plain: take it or leave it; nor Paisley and the "no" campaigners, who declined to take it; nor Lord Tebbit, who rallied against it from the outset. These people have been straightforward. The cheats have been the Principal Opposition. Afraid of raining on the Blair-Major-Trimble parade, but desirous of drizzling on it, the Tories have started to pretend that Blair has changed his position on decommissioning. This gives them their excuse for harrying the legislation — though they supported the agreement.

They know it is touch-and-go whether the Northern Ireland Assembly can be made to work. They could help. Conservatives are heard

with a measure of respect by Unionists. The Assembly election last week, with Mr Trimble's future in the balance, was the moment for the Conservative Party to throw all its weight behind him. Instead they reopened their options on the whole enterprise. Unpleasant voices in the Tory party are preparing to say "we told you so; we never liked it in the first place" if the Assembly fails.

And they have made it more likely to fail. They have given heart to the anti-agreement people in the Province. To those unhesitatingly posed, they have offered relief from isolation: how can we call them extremists when the Tories vote in their lobby? Those still hesitating — wavering supporters of Mr Trimble who might, by a show of unanimity, be persuaded to sneak back into line — they have encouraged to be renegades. And in the Province as a whole, they have helped to spread alarm and despondency about the Assembly's prospects.

Trimble is furious. Patrick Mayhew, Mo Mowlam's Tory predecessor, is furious. In Coleraine this week, he said that the Bill delivered what the agreement promised. Acknowledging that he was breaking his own party's new line, he said "it is my duty to speak as I believe". Astonishingly, this was hardly reported on the mainland.

John Major missed that Commons vote. I cannot believe that he disagrees with Sir Patrick, or that he could have followed Mr Hague into the "no" lobby. One brave Tory, Douglas Hogg, rebelled. Mr Hogg said he disliked the way the Prime Minister had fudged. He sympathised with the "attitudes, thoughts and passions" which led some to demand an explicit linkage between decommissioning and the release of prisoners. But his party supported the agreement and the people of Northern Ireland had voted for it. And "anybody who read the agreement knows full well that there is no linkage".

The speech from the chief opposi-

tion spokesman, Andrew MacKay, dithered all over the place. At one point he seemed to accept that there can be no hard-and-fast linkage — indeed, he insisted that an earlier (failed) Tory amendment did not ask for such. He presented his party's demands as being perfectly consonant with the Government's wishes. And then he marched his troops into the "no" lobby against the whole Bill!

I smell what is going on here. I wish it were just incompetence, but I suspect worse. The Tories are beginning a slow cave-in to the *Daily Telegraph* tendency. A spreading hostility to the whole spirit of the agreement is seeping through the party.

There was always going to be a strand of that among Tory attitudes. Tories found it difficult to accept that Mahatma Gandhi had to be treated with as a national leader rather than a fanatical agitator. After Mau Mau, their *Daily Telegraph* tendency could not accept that Jomo Kenyatta needed to be brought into the fold; and it was opposed to dealing with Archbishop Makarios, the covert supporter of Eoka terrorist murder who eventually became the leader of independent Cyprus. It supported Ian Smith and almost persuaded Margaret Thatcher to throw in her lot with the white Rhodesians. Now it wants this agreement to fail.

The *Daily Telegraph* strand of Toryism is entitled to its unflinching philosophy: a creed which needs representing, a creed which is understandable, arguable, honourable, and wrong. But the skill of any adroit Tory leader, from Harold Macmillan through Margaret Thatcher to John Major, has been to contain *The Daily Telegraph* without succumbing to it. Does Hague understand this? Do the bunkered Tories see that they need to reach out to the uncommitted, not scratch the backs of diehard supporters?

Somebody once said that if you want to lead, you must be prepared to disappoint the few you will meet in order to answer the many you never will. What Mr Blair is trying to do in Northern Ireland is not only (in my view) right: it is (on any view) enormously popular. If it succeeds, William Hague would not be thanked for having kicked Blair's shins along the way. If it fails, he will not be excused for his part, however slight, in that failure.

Philip Howard



Joshua razed Jericho: why not raise the stakes?

Now the word hath gone forth among the Canaanites and the Children of Israel that Jericho, the city of the West Bank not the suburb of Oxford, shall be converted into the mightiest gambling complex in the Middle East: but the evangelists bearing trumpets of rams' horns are blowing the tidings with an uncertain sound, more like the pianissimo tinkling of cymbals than a great shout to make walls fall down.

Verily this Casino shall be called Oasis, its gospel is being handled by a PR company in Tel Aviv, and its leader is Mohamed Rashid, the Chief Minister for shekels of dollar and shekels of euro to Yasser Arafat. King of all the Arafates: and when it openeth this autumn the prophet saith that it shall rival Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, Sun City and Birmingham, and all the cities of the plain for the splendour of its roulette wheels and the haughty majesty of its croupiers in their evening robes of lambswool and fine linen.

So why have the trumpets of rams' horns lost their puff, wherefore are these good tidings of great joy not being shouted from the hilltops of Arafat? Tell it in Gath, publish it in the streets of Askelon, that the daughters of the Philistines may rejoice, that the daughters of the uncircumcised may triumph in a Temple of Mammon that will increase the gross national product of the Children of Arafat by one hundredfold, nay even one thousandfold in percentages, which have yet to be invented at the time of the generations of Joshua and the translations of the Authorized Version.

For Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh were the only two who ever got through to the Land of Milk and Honey. And even unto this day schoolchildren remember the chronicle of how Joshua compassed the City of Jericho, and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall went down flat. And all the inhabitants thereof were slaughtered, apart from Rahab, the harlot in Jericho with good political sense, who had been tried in the field and found wanting.

Jericho also featureth in the Book of Samuel as the place of refuge whither David sent his servants after the forefathers of the Arafates shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks. He bade his servants tarry there until their beards were grown. Hence cometh the proverb in English of Jericho as a place of retirement or concealment, or a place far distant and out of the way, so that a man may bid his enemy to go thither to Jericho. A similar fate befell Coventry as a city whither no man in his right mind would go voluntarily.

The stealth of the genesis of this casino is ordained by the laws of the Sadducees and Pharisees. For even unto this day casinos are illegal in Israel. And the Prophet and his high-minded sons detest gambling as the lamb detesteth the lion and the turtle feareth the asp. Let the king prohibit gambling and betting in his kingdom, for these are vices that destroy the kingdoms of princes. For verily gaming is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity, and the father of mischief. And apart from that, the Arafates suspect that the shekels from Oasis will get into the wrong hands, ie, not theirs.

Nevertheless, not so fast, squire. Jericho, the earliest continuous settlement in the world, hath not enjoyed so wonderful a history over the past 100 centuries that turning it into Las Vegas will not be an improvement. It sitteth below the sea in a malarial valley, and is hotter than Gehenna. This overheated, earthen basement of the world is the place where man first turned from a hunter-gatherer into a farmer and city dweller within walls, fragile to Joshua's trumpets though they were. Selah.

Herod the Great built his winter palace in Jericho, after the high Roman fashion, brown-nosing his Masters: and a fat lot of good it did him. And apart from that, the history of Jericho from 30 generations BC to the latest wars with the Israelites has been nasty, brutish, short, hot and ghastly for the people. Disregarding the rage of the zealots, anything is an improvement for the inhabitants of Jericho. Heads I win, tails thou loost. Gaming is a madness of the spirit, in which the player always loseth. But it is better than blood and brutality, which have been the lot of Jericho until now.

## Sister axed

GORDON BROWN's girlfriend has been dropped by Labour as a fundraiser. Sarah Macaulay was employed along with Julia Hobsbawm, her business partner, to persuade plutocratic socialists to part with their dosh. But now Hobsbawm Macaulay Communications has been eased out, reflecting the rather awkward relationship between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. She and Hobsbawm have also resigned as members of Ken Follett's 1,000 Club of wealthy Labour supporters. Macaulay joined Hobsbawm, the daughter of Eric, the Marxist historian, in 1993. Around the same time, Hobsbawm introduced Macaulay to Brown, who struck up a particularly modern relationship. If they meet for dinner, a snapper often seems to be present to record the smiles. An engagement has not followed.

The partnership between the two women also prospered as the cheques floated in. Now their only work for the party is in Scotland, increasingly seen as Brown's fiefdom, where they organise gala dinners. "We have always supported the Labour Party," says Hobsbawm, "and will continue to do so." Only from the stands now.

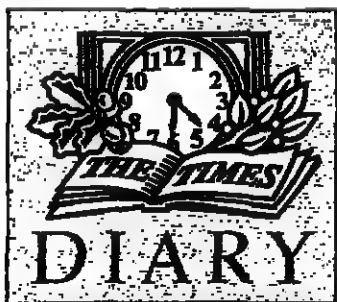
AT a fog-bound railway station, two former partners in a turbulent relationship meet. The brief encounter between Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on the 12:50



to Birmingham, followed a script reminiscent of their hit "Ken and Eddie" show. "I met Eddie on the train and I told him the rates were too high, that I wouldn't have let them get so high, and that we would suffer if they didn't drop," says Clarke. And like two strangers, they parted.

### Spin off

JUDY GRAHAME, the new spin-doctor at the Royal Opera House,



is poised to sue her bosses. She has been talking to lawyers after a vote of no confidence in her was passed by staff, and gripes about her were faxed to newspapers.

Grahame arrived at Christmas shortly before Keith Cooper, its director of corporate affairs, was sacked. In *The House*, a fly-on-the-wall documentary, he was filmed attacking a subordinate before firing him on screen. "Judy has taken advice on her position," says Pelham Allen, the chief executive. "Some staff felt seriously enough to pass a vote of no confidence, continuing the unfortunate tradition this place has." Halcyon days.

SUE BARKER (pictured), Wimbledon commentator and erstwhile silky pinner, has lost her tennis rackets. She blames the removal men during her recent move to Surrey. How does she cope? "I've

been playing a few games of golf." Still, if she must move to Surrey...

### Standing joke

REBELLION in the pews still festers at Westminster Abbey. The Dean of Westminster, Wesley Carr, has upset regulars, including Frank Field and Dame Ruth Railton, by insisting that the altar rails be removed, forcing those receiving Holy Communion to stand rather than kneel. The latest complaint follows mounting bitterness among the congregation about Carr's run-in with Martin Neary, the organist and Master of Chorus.



ters, and the sacking of women guides over 75. "It's all very sad," says Railton, founder of the National Youth Orchestra and widow of Cecil Harrisworth King. "The services were always so dignified. Now you go up to the altar and find something very different."

JUST when it seemed all over, Damien Hirst and Keith Allen, after their anthem to football jobbery Vindaloo, plan to make another record. Their new theme? Christmas. December abroad suddenly seems rather appealing.

### Peer pressure

THE INFUX of Tony Blair's new Labour peers is causing terrible strains in Hampstead, where every second resident now seems to be lord: for who shall become Baron of Hampstead? Unfortunately for some of the London enclave's more fashionable residents, the handle has been nabbed by Tony Clarke, erstwhile posie and MP.

I gather he has just squared it with the Garter King of Arms to become Baron Clarke of Hampstead. This is bad news for that other Hampstead figure, poor old Melvyn Bragg, who, as I disclosed earlier this week, is struggling to dream up a suitable title.



PETER PHILLIPS (pictured), the son of the Princess Royal who so excites my new tweedy Edwina, is continuing to break royal tradition. He has, I can disclose, got himself a job. And what is more, he has refused payment. The 30-year-old undergraduate at Exeter has started work experience at Jackie Stewart's new grand prix car factory in Milton Keynes. The other day his old Mum visited the site, while he was scrubbing cars.

JASPER GERARD





## IN PLACE OF THE STATE

A new prescription for the NHS 50 years on

"Ancestor worship", wrote Aneurin Bevan in *In Place of Fear*, "is the most conservative of all religions. The great radical should, then, be embarrassed by the tributes paid this week by his political descendants. But of all the formidable qualities boasted by the founder of the National Health Service, modesty was not prominent. Immediately after leaving office he was inclined to refer to the NHS as 'my health service'. And, to a great extent, it still is. The National Health Service at 50 has grown to a size its founder could never have imagined, but its virtues and defects are those with which it was born.

The creation of the NHS required a politician of supreme confidence to win round a sceptical medical profession and an unconvinced Cabinet. Bevan, however, succeeded in the end with a combination of guile, in winning over the Royal College of Physicians, and guts, in enduring calls for his resignation which stretched from the Tory back-benches to *The Observer*.

Progress towards the creation of a proper public health service had begun in Victorian times with a series of Public Health Acts, gathered pace with the Liberal landslide of 1906, found eloquent expression in Beatrice Webb's call for a service free to all in need, and a firm foundation in the Lloyd George Government's creation of a Ministry of Health in 1919. The impetus for change after 1945 was twofold: the experience of wartime direction of health care and the Beveridge report, *Social Insurance and Allied Services* of 1944. The report, although it favoured health care free at the point of use, argued that the best method of funding was through some form of insurance payment. It argued: "Previous (insurance) contribution is the ideal, better even than free service supported by the taxpayer."

Bevan chose to part company from Beveridge on that point, establishing a service which has been dependent solely on the taxpayer all its life. The NHS's structure

has had eloquent defenders, not least in Richard Titmuss, whose book *The Gift Relationship* makes a formidable case that the altruism necessary in a civilised society is found in the constitution of the NHS, most noticeably in the operation of the blood transfusion service. But the method of funding that Bevan chose has proved a crude restraint rather than a support.

From the beginning costs exceeded expectations. The demand for GP services in 1948-49 and 1949-50 was projected at £268 million and then £352 million, but proved to be £373 million and then £449 million. It was the decision of Hugh Gaitskill as Chancellor to impose charges to deal with spiralling expenditure that precipitated Bevan's resignation. Since then the principle of a tax-funded NHS has been nibbled at but seldom confronted. Enoch Powell gave warning that "there is virtually no limit to the amount of medical care an individual is capable of absorbing". And thus virtually no limit to how much money the NHS can absorb.

Yesterday's announcement by Tony Blair of modernisation money is welcome, but the very act of dealing with the NHS by increasing state spending is very *unmodern*. Last month, in the Kathleen A. Raven Memorial Lecture, the former Treasury Chief Secretary Michael Portillo argued that there were alternative models, European indeed, which showed how a nation could enjoy a better-funded public health service by relying on social insurance to supplement the State. The Netherlands enjoys a superb health service, funded from insurance, and founded on principles which he quoted approvingly, were "private initiative, independence, self-help and respect for the autonomy of the agencies and professions involved". Fifty years on, in place of the fear of change which has bedevilled debate about the NHS, Tony Blair should have the courage to learn the right lessons from our European partners.

## METTERNICH'S ORPHANS

Gone is the grasp of history that shaped the Congress of Vienna

For nine months, 184 years ago, Europe's statesmen danced the Vienna nights away and, by day, laboured at the leisurely pace of those days on a postwar structure for the European continent. The result was a monumental treaty that embraced not only territories but constitutional and economic arrangements. The Austrian presidency of the European Union which begins this week will be briefer than the Congress of Vienna — much briefer, since holidays and the German elections will effectively bring EU business to a halt until the last three months of this year. Undaunted, the Austrian Government has proposed a frenetic schedule of meetings, 2,300 for officials and 50 involving EU politicians in addition to the ritual couple of EU summits.

The shades of Metternich, Talleyrand and Castlereagh may permit themselves a wry smile at the thought of so much labour to bring forth a mouse or two. For the depressing indication from modern Vienna is that it is the footnotes of the late 20th century, not the wide vistas of the 19th, that will be keeping their successors so busy. The Government of Viktor Klima seems more preoccupied with proving that it can keep the machinery well-oiled than to accelerate the admission of Central European members which ought, for reasons of geography and history, to be Austria's natural vocation.

Officially, enlargement is a "priority", albeit one ranked lower than secondary legislation on the European Central Bank or suspect ambitions for harmonised EU taxes in order to restrict competition for investment capital. In practice the prosperous Austrian public, the majority of which agrees with the ultra-right politician Jörg Haider that enlargement will mean more crime, fewer jobs and "hundreds of thou-

sands of immigrants arriving on our doorsteps", is dead against admitting any Central European country except Hungary.

Instead of countering their prejudices with the incontrovertible evidence that Austria, whose trade with Central Europe has added 2.5 per cent to its GDP since 1989, would be a prime beneficiary of a larger EU, their leaders dance around the question like cats on hot tiles. Wolfgang Schüssel, the Foreign Minister whose horizons are wider than is usual in the airless hothouse of Austrian coalition politics, speaks of expansion as "fulfilling the dreams" of the EU's founders. But even he places most stress on ridding enlargement of its "negative side-effects".

Some Central Europeans grumble that neutral Austria was chummy with their Cold War dictators than it is with their new democratic governments. They also say that they need no lectures either in democracy or in economic restructuring from a country whose centrist parties have shared power and carved up political patronage between them for 50 years. They exaggerate, but their irritation is understandable.

"Asia begins in the Landstrasse," Metternich said: Vienna lies east of Prague and Austria has borders with, and once ruled, three of the five front-runners for EU membership. Culturally, as its sponsorship of the current festival of Central European culture in London underlines, Vienna is again the crossroads it was in the heyday of the Habsburg empire. But politically, Austria shrinks from its natural bridging role. The restrictions it wants to set on enlargement are anti-competitive, myopic and bad for Western as well as Eastern Europe. Herr Schüssel says that the EU "should not be afraid to tackle the difficult questions". Tony Blair should take him up on that.

## SPORTING COLOURS

Fancy dress is fun, so long as it does not spoil fun for others

The summer of sport is a season of silly costumes. This weekend, from the boaters and blazers of the Henley Regatta to face paint and flags on Centre Court, spectators will be flaunting fancy dress. At Ascot the juitriders of the Queen's landau wear white perukes as eccentric as the ginger wigs of any football fan. The toppers and tails of the Royal Enclosure, the theatrical hats and frocks of Ladies' Day are more flamboyant by far than any spectator display at the World Cup in France — except that of Jamaica perhaps.

Crickets too has its barny army; mad ambassadors who don wild head-dress. In recent years they have spread a fashion for outlandish costumes around pavilions already adorned with the loud ties and garish stripes of more traditional club members. But yesterday Lancashire County Cricket Club, along with a ban on importing any alcohol into its Old Trafford ground, refused admission to spectators in dress that was deemed offensive: full bodysuits that dangerously impede mobility, extravagant head-dresses that block others' view.

Brian Cheesman, a sociology lecturer who has cropped up at televised Test matches wearing nothing but a carrot costume, will have to peel off his skin or stay out. But anyone, says an Old Trafford representative, is welcome to come as Anne Boleyn. All that matters is that she should

keep her head tucked well under her arm. The wearing of costumes at sporting events has ancient roots. In the Roman Empire the chariots which tore round the Circus Maximus belonged to associations of contractors who were distinguished by their colours, red and white at first, later blue and green as well. There was keen partisanship among the cheering public. And Pliny tells how one chariot owner, Caccina of Volaterrae, ordered that homing swallows be daubed with paint to announce his victories. In medieval jousting tournaments, knights, their squires and supporters wore the heraldic colours of their liege lords and the favours of their lady loves.

Today the insignia, styles and celebrations of sporting fans reveal their membership of a tribe, at once inclusive and exclusive. Each has its own chants and customs and ceremonial dress. Their display adds to the pleasure and spectacle of a sporting event. It should not be discouraged. But in the mannered war which marks any sporting contest, courtesy among the spectators is paramount. Rigid etiquette should not stifle the recreation of some, any more than eccentric enthusiasm should be allowed to detract from the peace or enjoyment of others. A carrot should be welcome at a cricket match, as long it does not crop up at the point when the bowler is bowling. What sport does not need is a row of cabbages.

## Barristers' loss of court monopoly

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, You have welcomed in your leading article today, "A ram at the Temple", the Lord Chancellor's proposal to scrap the Bar's new monopoly of work in the higher courts. So will many members of the public. But if they find themselves involved as litigants or accused they may regret having instructed a solicitor rather than a barrister to represent them; and for a near certainty the cost of doing so will not be less.

Advocacy is a skill. For a few it is in-born; but for most it is acquired by long experience, which barristers begin to acquire from the day they are called to the Bar. Solicitors acquire it, if they ever do, between doing other work. Even in the largest firms solicitors are unlikely to acquire as much experience as barristers of the same standing. This is particularly so in specialist areas such as defamation, intellectual property and tax.

Barristers are a convenience to both solicitors and their clients. By briefing a barrister in the ordinary run of cases a solicitor saves his client money. The brief fee is likely to be no more, possibly less, than the cost to his client of his time travelling to the court and being there. Much of it is likely to be wasted waiting for the case to start; but will have to be paid for by the client.

All this is shown by what happens in the county courts. Ever since they were set up in 1846, solicitors have had a right of audience there. In practice nearly all difficult and lengthy cases are conducted by barristers. Solicitors tend to know their limitations as advocates and what costs can be saved by briefing barristers.

Yours truly,  
FREDERICK LAWTON  
(Lord Justice of Appeal, 1972-86).  
1 The Village,  
Skelton, York YO3 6GX.  
June 26.

From Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC

Sir, If they are able to read the writing on the Temple wall, the Lord Chancellor's proposals (report, "Irvine to scrap Bar's court monopoly", June 26) will have given a nasty jolt to all up-and-coming barristers. But no one can deny that competition is good and that restrictive practices are bad: monopoly situations inevitably produce many evils, including complacency, the enemy of motivation, originality and efficiency.

Judges and recorders frequently complain about the poor advocacy of barristers who currently appear before them. Colloquial conversational mumbled punctuated with mind-numbing clichés is no substitute for advocacy. The old rules are best: unless you constantly strive to do better, you are bound to get worse. The way to present arguments attractively (decorated for a jury and dedicated for a judge) is by thorough preparation combined with relevant experience. It is plain that in future, as in the past, the Bar will be used as a referral profession, for difficult rather than routine cases, for second opinions and for our "superior" advocacy skills; but only if we can continue to convince our potential clients, by our performances in and out of court, that we possess the specialist qualities which they require.

If the only way in which an observer can distinguish between the courtroom advocacy of a barrister and that of a solicitor is by noting that one of them is wearing a horsehair wig, the time cannot be far off when we are consumed by fusion of the professions. No one will lament our passing.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD THWAITES,  
10 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4Y 7EB.  
June 27.

From Mrs Marion Heath

Sir, Your report today quotes Lord Irvine as saying: "Antiquated restrictions on which lawyers can appear in the higher courts, which force people to pay for two lawyers in cases where one would do, can have no place in this system."

The fact that the public is not allowed direct access to the Bar produces precisely the same effect. If solicitors are now to be given wider rights of audience, it is clear that the *quid pro quo* must be to allow the public direct access to barristers.

Yours faithfully,  
MARION HEATH,  
34 Parkside, SW19 5NB.  
June 26.

## Ulster democracy

From Mr Chris Leithhead

Sir, Again Drumcree is demonstrating the problems with democracy in Ulster.

Modern democracy is not just a system of government, it is a way of life. It requires that those in the minority accept the right of those in the majority to govern and that those in the majority govern in the interests of all.

The Orangemen may have the democratic right to march their traditional route. They have the democratic duty not to. The future for Ulster remains in doubt until duties are seen as more important than rights.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS LEITHHEAD,  
43 Green Moor Link,  
Winchmore Hill, N21 2NN.  
July 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Idiocy' of Bill-blocking procedure

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, On Friday, July 3, the Energy Efficiency Bill is due to complete the final stage of its passage through the House of Commons. It is a Private Member's Bill designed to ensure that, when homes change hands, the new occupant is provided with details of measures necessary to make it energy-efficient. Effectively, it provides purchasers with the housing equivalent of an mpg rating on a car. As such, it offers economic, environmental (and subsequent employment) benefits.

This Bill was initiated by this association, a private sector-backed organisation. It has the active support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, all other relevant professional bodies, and environmental organisations. During second reading on February 6, it was welcomed by frontbench spokesmen from all three major parties. This enthusiasm was reiterated at committee stage.

On April 24 the Bill was ready to complete its final stage. At this point, one Conservative MP, Eric Forth (Bromley and Chislehurst), intervened and objected to the Bill. Despite neither having attended the second reading debate nor volunteered for committee stage, he used this obscure parliamentary manoeuvre to block progress. He is now threatening to

repeat this tomorrow. As this is the last day this session for Private Member's Bills, the measure will effectively be killed.

On June 25, following a special debate prompted by the Liberal Democrats (whose MP, John Burnett, is the Bill's sponsor), during which all three parties' spokesmen repeated their support for its progress, the House unanimously resolved that it wished to see this Bill become law this session. Mr Forth could have divided the House on that occasion, to establish whether his hostile views had support. He chose not to do so, nor did he seek to contribute to the debate.

If on Friday Mr Forth again objects to the Bill, he will have demonstrated the idiocy of a system which gives one man the power to block an initiative which continues to have enormous support, both within and without the Commons. I know that many of his colleagues are still urging Mr Forth to change his mind. Even if he will not listen to views outside the Commons, I hope he will pay heed to his colleagues.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW WARREN,  
Director,  
Association for the  
Conservation of Energy,  
Westgate House,  
Prebend Street, N1 8PT.  
July 2.

### Drunk in custody

From Mrs Jan Prebble

Sir, The Police Complaints Authority, which published its annual report last week, was the second highly respected statutory body this year to call for detoxification centres to which drunk detainees could be sent instead of keeping them in police stations. The Audit Commission was the first, with its report, *The Doctor's Bill*, published in March (report, March 4).

Up and down the country, panels of lay visitors — members of the public appointed by the Home Office, who visit police stations in pairs, unannounced, to see that all is well in the custody suites — have been calling for detoxification centres for some years now. But no one very much has been listening to our pleas.

Under the rules of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act drunks have to be released and some response obtained every half hour. This must then be noted in the custody record. Imagine a custody suite with perhaps three drunks, and you will see that looking after them is almost a full-time job for one policeman, allowing him little

time to care for other detainees who may be there.

More than that, it is surely quite unfair to ask the custody sergeant to decide whether a man is just drunk and will sober up shortly or whether he is drunk and ill and needs a doctor. There should be somewhere for drunks to be taken where medical expertise is on hand.

The Audit Commission's report says that "recent research carried out in London suggests that a relatively straightforward arrest for being drunk and disorderly costs £200 in police time". That money could immediately be diverted to help with the costs of such centres.

May we now expect the Government to act, and act quickly, in setting up at least a pilot scheme with special facilities for detainees suffering from drink and perhaps drug abuse?

Yours sincerely,  
JAN PREBBLE  
(Chairman),  
South Westminster  
Lay Visitors' Panel,  
PO Box 240,  
64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP.  
June 28.

### Cost of the euro

From Mr Colin Dauris

Sir, It is hard to understand why businessmen should believe that the UK will be effectively "in the euro" just because continental sellers are expected to demand payment in that currency (Mr M. R. Warren's letter, June 26).

Businessmen do not consider that we are "in the dollar" because we trade with the United States and because many commodities are quoted customarily in dollars on the world market. Nor do they consider that we are "in the Deutschmark" because of the current level of our trade with Germany.

Those carrying out business transactions in currencies other than their own buy and sell currency ahead. They will be able to do just the same with euros. The cost of such dealing in currency, which is not at tourist exchange rates, makes a tiny addition to a business's total costs.

The cost of euro currency transactions to UK business as a whole will be negligible compared with the likely price, economic and political, if we were to join the euro.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN DAURIS,  
Goodalls, Middle Street,  
Nazeing, Essex EN9 2LP.  
June 29.

### Clinton in China

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, Having just returned from China, may I take issue with the warning in your leading article today, "Small leaps forward", that the changes that have taken place there are "neither inconsequential nor irreversible" [see also letter, July 1].

Inconsequential they certainly are not; but it is inconceivable to think that, having embarked on a process of change that is so starkly radical and full of promise, the Chinese leadership would ever contemplate reversing them in the foreseeable future.

Everywhere that our little group went, from Beijing to Shanghai to Suzhou to Wuxi, whether by air, train or coach, the unmistakable impression that we gained was of a country on the move, with a people who can see what free enterprise has in store and are prepared to embrace it with their centuries-old values of thrift, hard work and stoicism born of long struggle for self-betterment.

Yours truly,  
RAMNIK SHAH,  
Preveniers & Co (solicitors),  
Elm House,  
113-115 London Road,  
Mileham, Surrey CR4 2JA.  
June 30.

### All part of the plan?

From Mrs Andrew Hynes

Sir, Mervyn Evans (letter, June 29) asks who organises the bands of rain to which weather forecasters refer.

May I refer him to Job xxxviii, 11-12: [God] loads the clouds with moisture... at his direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever he commands them (New International Version).

Yours faithfully,  
ROSENA HYNES,  
9 Hauxwell Drive,  
Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7RU.  
rosena@compuserve.com  
June 26.

### Football hooligans

From Mr C. J. Batchelor

Sir, During the reign of Henry VIII Sir Thomas Elyot, in his *The Book Named the Governor* (1531), described football as a game wherein is nothing but beastly fury and extreme violence, whereof proceedeth hurt, and consequently rancour and malice do remain with them that be wounded, wherefore it is to be put into perpetual silence.

It would seem, four and a half centuries later, that the only change is that the violence has been transferred from the pitch to the streets.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BATCHELOR,  
144 Great Knollys Street,  
Reading, Berkshire RG1 7HB.  
July 1.

### England's defeat

From Mr Arthur W. Johns

Sir, Tuesday's tremendously exciting World Cup match was overshadowed by the dismissal of a player, quite rightly under the rules, for an unacceptable infringement. But is common justice well served? Is it right that the whole team should be weakened for the remainder of the match by the thoughtless action of one man? Send him off, yes, but replace him with a substitute.

The fans who support the game deserve to watch a match played by two full teams.

Yours sincerely,  
A. W. JOHNS,  
169 Spring Road,  
Kempston, Bedford MK42 8NR.  
July 1.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Tax will not drive cars from the road

From Professor John Adams

Sir, The probability recedes of the forthcoming Transport White Paper doing anything to arrest or reverse Britain's growing dependence on the car.

Last week Gavin Strang restated the Government's position that car ownership is good and car use is bad — or at least to be discouraged (report, June 25). This is disingenuous populism. His own department's road traffic forecasts published last year proclaimed the obvious: "Growth in car ownership is the major contributor to traffic growth." The average distance travelled per year by every car has been increasing slowly — from 14,000km in 1986 to 15,500km in 1996. According to Mr Strang's forecasts it will be about 17,000km by 2025.

Today we read ("Higher car tax planned for motorists who live in cities") that the Government's support for car ownership is geographically selective. This will make things worse. Curbing traffic in cities while accommodating it elsewhere will encourage further sprawl and dependence on the car. Restraint is needed most where the growth of traffic is fastest — in the suburbs and beyond.

The problem that no serious politician appears willing to address is the impossibility of providing parking space and driving space for all those who do not yet have cars but aspire to. The country is still little more than half way to the saturation level of car ownership — the level reached when everyone old enough and fit enough to drive owns a car.

The only transport policy that could claim to be both environmentally and morally sustainable is one that seeks to provide the means for all citizens to participate fully in the life of the country without the need to own a car.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN ADAMS,  
Geography Department,  
University College London,  
26 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AP.  
June 29.

From Dr R. D. S. Bloore

Sir, You report that the Government is considering imposing higher car taxes on city dwellers. Can it make sense to penalise those who choose to live reasonably near their work and reward those who choose to commute huge distances by car? Surely it is long-distance commuting which causes the most pollution and congestion.

The movement from the cities to the country is already causing huge problems, with the Government planning to allow another 2.2 million homes to be built in the English countryside. Some county councils feel so strongly about this issue that they are going as far as to take the Government to court in an effort to resist unreasonable increases to their existing structural plans.

Unfortunately as it may be, the car is now an essential mode of transport for many journeys, especially for families with young or old members. If the Government further penalises city dwellers it can only accelerate the unwelcome movement from town to country.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BLOORE,  
Jubilee Villa,  
89 Halburton Road,  
St Margarets, Twickenham TW1 1PD.  
June 29.

From Mr Ron Small

Sir, The new car tax could be weighted by postcode to take into account the car owners' proximity to decent Tube, train and bus services, thus enabling comparisons to be made of the advantages in terms of car dependence to be obtained from living in, say, Islington compared with, say, Streatham.

Yours faithfully,  
RON SMALL,  
113 Heybridge Avenue, SW16 3DS.  
rsmall@nclco.co.uk  
June 29.

### A double life

From Dr M. P. Stratford

Sir, Your report of July 2 about a religious education teacher exposed as "Nick the stripper" suggests to me there is something seriously amiss with a society that values a part-time male stripper twice as highly as a teacher of moral education at the top of his salary scale.

Yours etc,  
M. P. STRATFORD  
(Deputy Headteacher),  
St Boniface's College,  
Tavistock Road,  
Crown Hill, Plymouth PL5 3AG.  
July 2.

### For your ears only

From Mr Ormond Uren

Sir, Radio 4 persistently features descriptions of pictures, architecture, scenery, etc, which are meaningless if you cannot see what is being referred to.

The news that *Gardener's Question Time* was recorded "in the company of 200 nudists" (report, June 29) therefore comes as no surprise.

Yours sincerely,  
ORMOND UREN,  
16 Brookfield Park, NWS 1ER.  
ormond.uren@virgin.net  
June 29.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

July 2: The Queen this morning visited City Chambers, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost) and members of the Council.

Her Majesty, Patron, afterwards visited the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at the City Chambers to mark their Seventy-Fifth anniversary and was received by the President (the Earl of Mansfield and Mansfield).

The Queen viewed a dance demonstration and met dancers and musicians.

Mr Alan Simpson, winner of the annual shooting event of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, was presented to Her Majesty and received the Queen's Prize.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the garden of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Princess Royal, the Lady Louise and the Hon Elizabeth Ramsay of Mar were present.

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, under the command of the President of the Council, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, KT, Sir Peter Sack for Scotland, was on duty.

The High Constables of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were on duty.

The Lowland Band and the Highland Band played selections of music.

ST JAMES'S PALACE July 2: The Prince of Wales today visited County Durham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Sir Paul Nicholson).

His Royal Highness this morning received an Honorary Degree from the University of Durham at the Old Shire Hall, Durham.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the National Association of Almshouses, this afternoon visited the Durham Aged Mineworkers' Homes Association.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Boote Maritime City Challenge sites, Bootle, Merseyside, from 10.00.

The Prince of Wales will spend a service in Westminster Abbey, at 10.30, and will visit the Edinburgh Great Union, Western General Hospital, at 11.45.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Boote Maritime City Challenge sites, Bootle, Merseyside, from 10.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Adjutant General's Corps, will visit the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, Essex, at 11.15.

The Duke of Kent, president, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, will attend the Wimbledon Championships at 12.15.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 2: The Princess Royal this morning visited Weber Marking Systems, Macmerry Industrial Estate, Trant, on their Twenty-Fifth Anniversary and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian (Major Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon launched Victim Support Scotland's Support After Murder project at Edinburgh City Chambers and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

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Martin Bell, MP, checks his academic cap and gown, watched by Professor William Stevely, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, which yesterday made Mr Bell an honorary Doctor of Letters

## Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 0132 73262, winner has a holding of £19,995 and comes from the West Midlands: 0046 267555, £3,000, Surrey: 23ML 76994, £20,000, Buckinghamshire: 310844, £19,991, Surrey: 71EN 132149, £1,000, Croydon: 19DT 51764, £20,000, Lancashire: 51RZ 51724, £20,000, Essex.

£50,000: 32PL 360196, £2,000, Merseyside: 954F 740125, £2,000, Monmouthshire: 41KB 77013, £10,000, Kingston upon Thames: 94DZ 517664, £5,000, Devon: 27GS 94758, £20,000, Surrey: 81LL 54379, £19,000, Essex: 10FT 330793, £10,120, North Yorkshire: 76L 90287, £20,000, Glasgow: 8FK 853033, £435, Warwickshire: 091F 059690, £19,000, Warwickshire: 25VF 625446, £19, Lincolnshire: 36FT 40239, £450, Dorset: 74LS 31441, £20,000, Norfolk.

£25,000: 73AL 37972, £1,000, Staffordshire: 81LL 30757, £12,105, Essex: 33YF 64250, £1,000, South Yorkshire: 57FK 78389, £18,392, Southwark: 5000, London: 62CL 041685, £18,605, Buckinghamshire: 43BK 661691, £20,000, Angus: 71HB 52692, £9,345, Vale of Glamorgan: 39XK 578940, £18,150, Cheshire: 77EP 26728, £2,400, Lancashire: 92HZ 621359, £2,000, Lancashire: 92HZ 375977, £13,097, Kent: 57SF 654976, £20,000, Wiltshire: 72SF 598046, £7,724, Hampshire: 40QJ 43747, £14,072, West Sussex: 54AL 54135, £20,000, Gloucestershire: 2DN 509925, £69, South Yorkshire: 56LF 543038, £20,000, Northumbria: 38FS 34626, £20,000, South Lanarkshire: 40TT 86727, £10,000, Somerset: 58CL 835946, £2,000, Somerset: 51EP 266677, £1,000, Gloucestershire: 32JL 946602, £20,000, West Yorkshire: 43HB 23475, £20,000, Wiltshire: 25TZ 02634, £1,118, Herefordshire: 19VK 113094, £100, Staffordshire: 37FN 207028, £100, Ealing.

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## NEWS

## Blair flies in as Ulster churches burn

Tony Blair flew into Northern Ireland last night on a high-risk mission to avert a looming conflagration that could yet destroy the Province's fragile peace.

On the day that loyalist extremists burned ten Roman Catholic churches, and with just two days left before the explosive Drumcree parade, the Prime Minister stood at a gutted church and begged Protestants and Catholics to listen to the "voice of reason". Pages 1, 4

## Billie-Jo foster father jailed for life

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was jailed for life for her murder after a judge told him he was "an extreme danger" to the community. The jury at Lewes Crown Court took ten hours and 40 minutes to find the deputy headmaster guilty of killing the 13-year-old. Pages 1, 3

## Carter-Ruck v himself

The libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck is embroiled in a retirement dispute with his eponymous law firm and has asked Clifford Chance, the UK's biggest law firm, to act for him. Page 1

## Royaals press grant

The Royal Household is to receive a direct grant of almost £500,000 a year to handle its media relations, taking over from the Central Office of Information. Page 1

## Lords clash looms

The Government was plunged into a high-risk constitutional confrontation with the House of Lords after peers announced they would defy ministers a third time over student tuition fees. Page 4

## Diana crash query

Trevor Rees-Jones, who survived the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, has asked investigators to question the Paris Ritz about the chauffeur Henri Paul's behaviour. Page 5

## Ecstasy tragedy

A boy of 14 who found a stash of Ecstasy tablets and shared them with friends "like sweets" escaped a custodial sentence after admitting culpable homicide. Page 7

## Jones escapes jail

The Queens Park Rangers assistant manager Vinnie Jones was ordered to carry out 100 hours' community service for an attack on his neighbour. Page 9

## A googly puts cricket code to Test

Eighteen stag-party revellers in floppy hats, a teenager in a St George wig and a man with a parrot on his head evaded the claspdown on provocative dress at the start of the Third Test match at Old Trafford. They walked past guards perhaps lulled into a false sense of security by the absence of carrot man, pantomime horse or Mr Blooby. Page 6

## Parents worse off

Nearly a third of divorced and separated parents with care of a child will be worse off under proposals to reform the Child Support Agency and simplify maintenance awards. Page 11

## NHS promises

Tony Blair promised to increase NHS spending above inflation for at least eight years, but emphasised that the money would be linked to moves to lift standards and end delays. Page 12

## Mandela riposte

President Mandela shocked his South African Communist Party allies by flatly rejecting calls for change and virtually accusing them of treachery to the African National Congress. Page 14

## Pasteur 'a plagiarist'

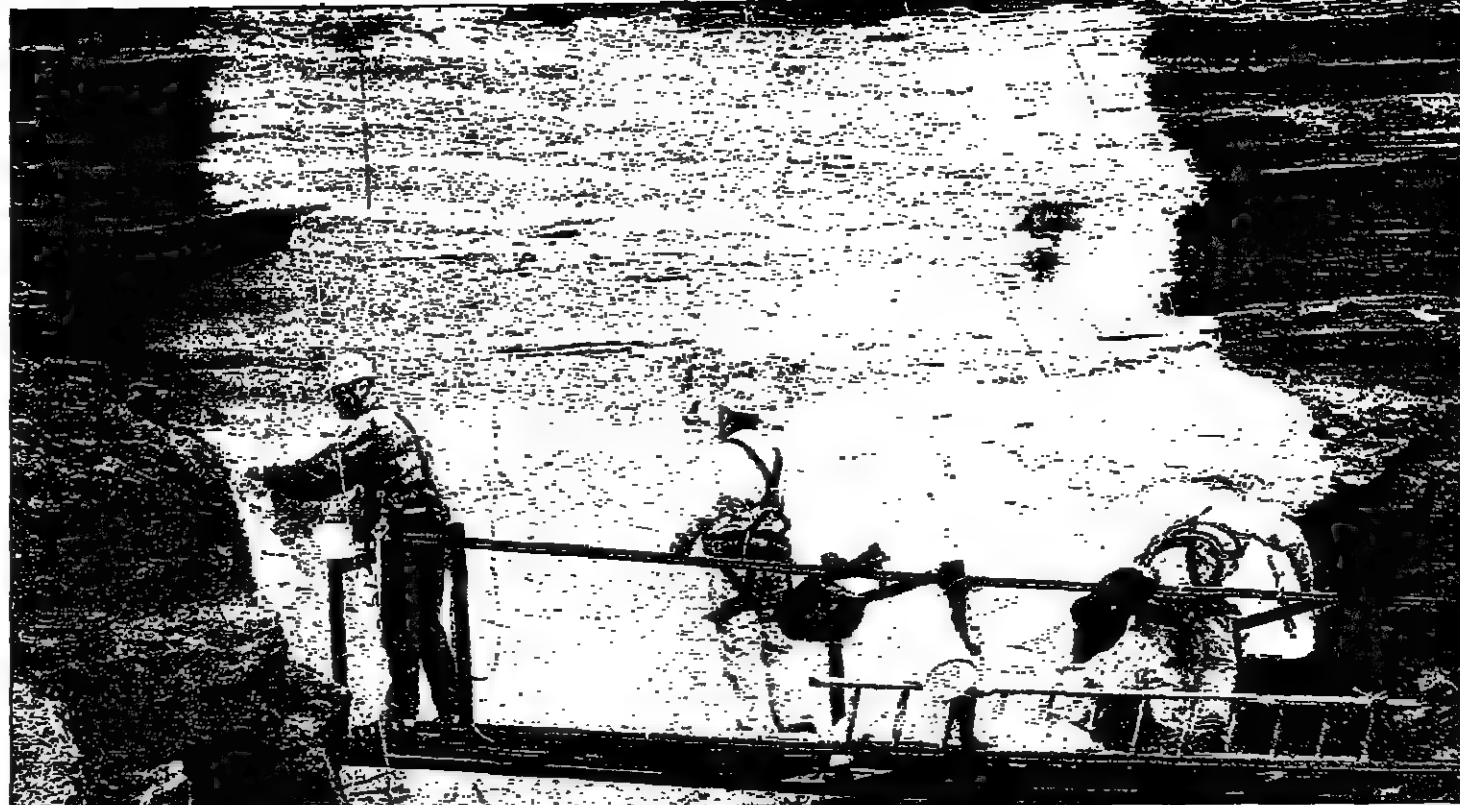
Louis Pasteur, the great French scientist and founder of microbiology, may have stolen the idea for his anthrax vaccine from a lesser-known rival. Page 16

## Streisand cover-up

Barbra Streisand and James Brolin went to extraordinary lengths to keep their wedding in Malibu secret by scaring off journalists. Page 17

## The real Roosevelt

President Franklin Roosevelt, who hid his disability from the outside world, is to be depicted sitting in a wheelchair at the memorial to him. Page 19



Geologically famous cliffs at Siccar Point in East Lothian are coated with latex to make a mould for New York's Natural History Museum

## BUSINESS

**Sceptics:** Eurosceptic British business leaders will today step up their campaign against the single currency with 100 putting their names to a report arguing that the euro is "bad for business". Page 21

**Prudent:** The insurer has more than doubled the provision it needs to make for the mis-selling of pensions from £450 million to £1.1 billion. Page 27

**Harvey Golden:** The rock concert promoter is taking over Tring International, the home entertainment company. Page 27

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 40.3 points to close at 5960.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 107.1 to 107.3 after a fall from \$1.6593 to \$1.6580 but a rise from DM3.0171 to DM3.0204. Page 30

## SPORT

**Wimbledon:** Jana Novotna defeated the No 1 seed, Martina Hingis, in the women's singles semi-final and will meet Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Natasha Zvereva, in the final tomorrow. Page 32

**Third Test:** England toiled on the opening day at Old Trafford as South Africa reached 237 for one. Jacques Kallis (117 not out) and Gary Kirsten (98 not out) shared a partnership of 212. Page 49

**World Cup:** Zinedine Zidane, the French playmaker, returns to the Stade de France for the quarter-final against Italy after his two-match suspension. Page 46

**Irish golf:** Colin Montgomerie challenged for a third consecutive Irish Open championship with a six-under-par 65. Page 47

## ARTS

**Richard Morrison:** "Richard Eyre's decent, liberal, Islingtonian persona stops him from carrying his investigations into London's opera and ballet scene to their logical conclusions". Page 35

**Home secured:** The Old Vic, where Gielgud, Ashcroft, Olivier and Burton gave towering performances, has been saved as a theatre, thanks to the Canadian impresario David Mirvish. Page 35

**Second coming:** Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Whistle Down the Wind* receives a punchy new staging that deserves its place in the West End. Page 36

**Pop albums:** The Beastie Boys' latest release shows they have lost their spark: another unexceptional work from Prince. Page 37

## FEATURES

**Buy words:** Jane Shilling's bargain-hunting philosophy — keep an open mind and never attend the first day of a sale. Page 20

**OK Mo:** After undergoing two operations for a spinal tumour, Maureen Lipman is back on form and appearing in *Okla!*. Page 21

## EDUCATION

**U-turn:** There can be no reform of the A-level system until universities change their attitudes. Page 43

**Elementary art:** Primary schoolchildren in Ealing, West London, are discovering opera — and liking what they hear. Page 43

## MEDIA

**Heck attacks:** "Journalists who have spent the past three weeks in France are heaving a sigh of relief". Damian Whitworth on taking back at the World Cup. Page 38

**Writing wrongs:** Lucy Gannon found in neglect and beatings the inspiration for the television scripts that made her name. Page 39

## THE PAPERS

Today's opening of the new Hong Kong International Airport attests to Hong Kong's spirit of surmounting difficulties; more than anything else this project embodied all that was difficult and painful in the transition from British colony to Special Administrative Region under Chinese sovereignty. *Hong Kong Standard*.

## TV LISTINGS

**Preview:** The chat show gets a comedian's spin. So Graham Norton (Channel 4, 10.30pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph sees feminism in the raw. Pages 50, 51

## OPINION

## In place of state

Fifty years on, in place of the fear of change which has bedevilled debate about the NHS, Tony Blair should have the courage to learn the right lessons from our European partners. Page 23

## Metemich's orphans

Vienna is again the crossroads it was in the heyday of the Habsburg Empire. But politically, Austria shrinks from its natural bridging role. Page 23

## Sporting colours

A carrot or two should be welcome at a cricket match, as long they do not crop up when the bowler is bowling. What sport does not need is a row of cabbages. Page 23

## COLUMNS

## MATTHEW PARRIS

With Ian Paisley telling, a scattering of Tories walked through the "aye" lobby in support of an amendment which would have defeated Northern Ireland's Good Friday agreement. Defeated, the Principal Opposition joined Mr Paisley in force... the occasion was a stain on the name of the Conservative Party. Page 22

## DANIEL JOHNSON

It has been a good week for the commentary. I refer not to the legions of commentators on the World Cup, Wimbledon or the Test Match, but to John Fuller's *W.H. Auden: A Commentary*. Page 22

## PHILIP HOWARD

Now the word hath gone forth among the Canaanites, and the Children of Israel that Jericho, the city of the West Bank not the suburb of Oxford, shall be converted into the mightiest gambling complex in the Middle East. Page 22

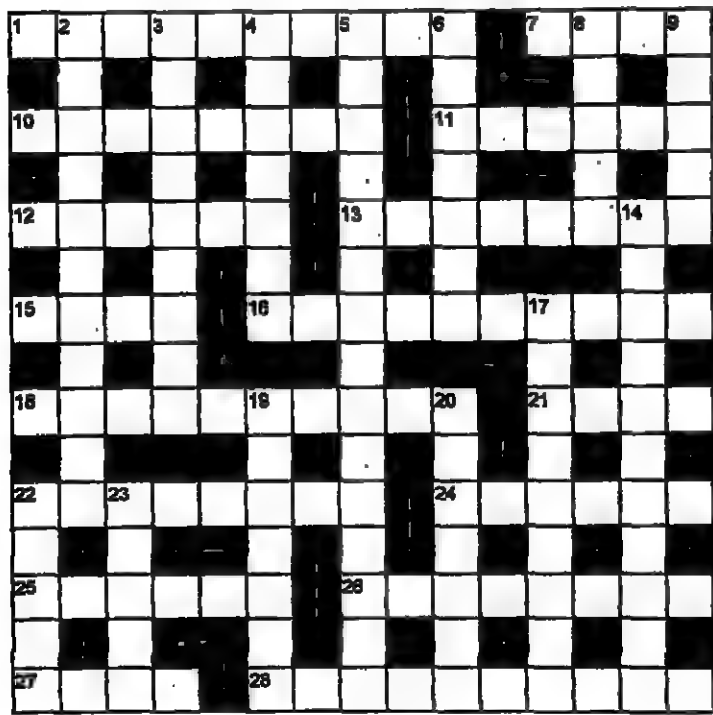
## OBITUARIES

**Colonel Andrew Croft,** explorer: Henry G. Saperstein, Hollywood producer: Lord Riverdale, industrialist. Page 25

## LETTERS

**Chancellor ends barristers' court monopoly:** spoiling tactics on Private Members' Bills; taxing town drivers: care of drunks in custody. Page 23

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,834



- ACROSS**
- Seem almost gloomy, but open to being placated (10).
  - Request to be on time for work (4).
  - Bonnie's youthful state (8).
  - Get into trouble taking a glass of wine (6).
  - Wealthy man following Henry — he died to mix socially (6).
  - Something offensive in use can get thrown out (8).
  - Asian connection, so to speak (4).
  - Shoot big game in backward eastern state — it's cooked with wine (10).
  - An extra good queen filled with new majesty (10).
  - Fish with John in boat (4).
  - Delivery that may get round a striker (3,5).
- DOWN**
- Hold attention of tenant (6).
  - One drink put in another, regardless of expense (4-2).
  - Every bit of work, I note, is causing bad reaction (8).
  - Off-putting affliction (4).
  - Work stoppage disrupts entire team (10).
  - Cooler shade it provided for Wordsworth's youth (6-5).
  - Wild flower, say, with name in Latin and English (9).
  - Partly reveals how Bizet is used in entertainment industry (7).
  - Overnight stay in base with crack fleet (3,5,9).
  - Executed attractive print (7).
  - Strange story in a northern setting (5).
  - New approach, leading with King or Jack (5).
  - Device the church eliminated from birth control (11).
  - Popular form of art leading to strange rowdiness (9).
  - Almost lose blood, wave as means of alerting doctor (7).
  - It interrupts flow of air, producing sore lip, possibly (7).
  - Healthy litter unsettled, initially, by their accommodation? (5).
  - Seize key file (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20833

DAMASK PARMESAN  
T A H S R O U E  
S E R P E N T A I G E R S  
T L E H E  
E P I G R A M M I S L E V Y  
M S S B H C  
P I T C H E R A L E R T E D  
E O O L M  
R A D I A L D R I V I N G  
E K E R S I  
G U B A S M A L L P R I N T  
U A P O I L M A  
P I C K E D S P E C I A L  
P L E A S E T R U I  
A M E N A B L E H E R M E S

Times Two Crossword, page 52

## LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

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National Motorways 0330 401 748  
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Wales 410 332 London 410 343  
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N.West 410 338  
N.East 410 339  
Scotland 410 340  
Met Office Faxline 410 340  
Inland Motorways 410 340

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## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 4.40 am Sun sets: 8.20 pm  
Moon rises: 1.24 am Moon sets: 2.57 pm  
Full moon July 9  
London 9.20 pm to 4.50 am  
Bristol 9.30 pm to 5.00 am  
Birmingham 10.00 pm to 4.34 am  
Manchester 9.40 pm to 4.47 am  
Penzance 9.35 pm to 5.18 am

## FORECAST

General: most parts will be dry and warm with good spells of sunshine. Southwest England and South Wales will see the most sun. Northern England, North Wales and Northern Ireland will be more cloudy, with the risk of a shower in eastern England. Northern Scotland will be mainly cloudy with some light rain.  
London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: sunny spells developing but it will turn hazy in afternoon. Moderate N wind. Max 19-22C (66-72F).  
Cent S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: dry and pleasantly warm with plenty of sun. Moderate N wind. Max 19-21C (66-70F).  
E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders: some early cloud and drizzle, particularly on coast, becoming drier with sunny spells. Light to moderate N to NW wind. Max 18-21C (64-70F).  
N to NW wind. Max 18-21C (64-70F).  
Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: cloudy start but sunny spells later in most parts. Light to moderate N to NW wind. Max 16-18C (61-64F).  
Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: mainly dry with sunny spells. Moderate NW wind. Max 19-21C (66-70F).  
Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mostly cloudy with some rain and drizzle. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 15-18C (59-64F).  
Outlook: Scotland will be cloudy tomorrow with showers. Elsewhere mainly dry and sunny through weekend.  
Pollution forecast: low in northern Scotland; moderate to high in southern Scotland; elsewhere high.

## AFTERNOON SUNSHINE YESTERDAY

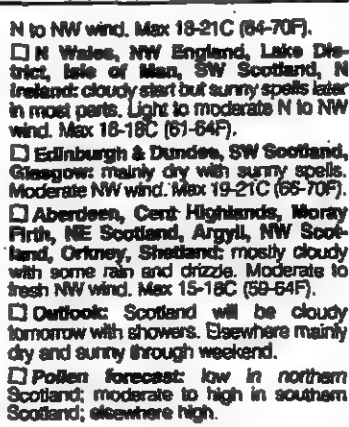
44 hrs to 5 pm: b=blue; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle shower; du=duff; f=fair; h=hazy; g=gale; h=heat; r=rain; s=sun; sh=showers; st=st; t=t; w=wind; x=not available

Area	Max	Min	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b

## ABROAD

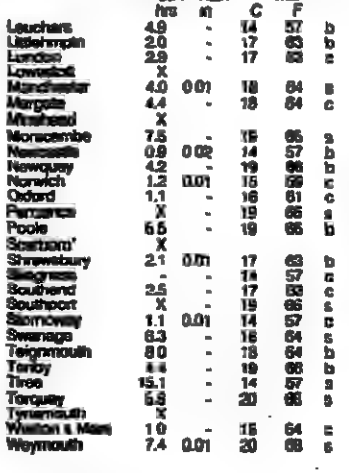
Area	Max	Min	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b

## NOON TODAY



## CHANGES TO CHART BELOW FROM NOON

high H will drift SW, building slowly; low J will fill and lose its identity as it runs NE; low G will continue to deepen, moving E



## HIGH TIDES

Area	Max	Min	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b
Aberdeen	16	8	17	b

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day lamp: Glasgow airport 22C (72F); lowest day max: Sale Ness, Shetland, 11C (52F); Highest rainfall: Lofth, Redcar and Cleveland, 0.08in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 15.1hr

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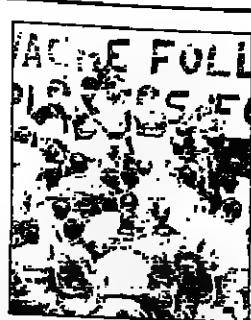
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INSIDE  
SECTION  
2  
TODAY



## BUSINESS

Monsanto muscles  
genetically modified  
food into Europe  
PAGE 31



## ARTS

Pop's Beastie Boys  
become meaty,  
beaty grown-ups  
PAGES 35-37



## SPORT

Day of frustration  
for England in  
Old Trafford Test  
PAGES 44-52

MEDIA  
Lucy Gannon's  
tortured past  
PAGES  
39-41

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 3 1998

Call for shareholders to foot more of pensions mis-selling bill

# Pressure mounts on Prudential

By RICHARD MILES

MEMBERS of Parliament are putting pressure on Prudential Corporation to make its shareholders foot more of the £1.1 billion bill for pension mis-selling revealed by the insurer yesterday.

As a result, Prudential's 1998 profits will be reduced by just £65 million, but a contrite Sir Peter Davis, Prudential's chief executive, told the Treasury Select Committee that the mis-selling bill would be set against an estimated £12 billion of surplus capital in its long-term life insurance fund.

## INSURANCE COMPANY SALESMEN FACE FRESH SCANDAL

PENSION top-up contracts are being widely mis-sold by insurance company salesmen, some of whom are even duping their own colleagues in order to benefit from the commission, according to a survey published today (Marianne Curphey writes).

Bacon & Woodrow, the actuaries, and Pensions Week magazine claim that over 70 per cent of pension scheme managers questioned believed the contracts, known as free standing

compensation and its reputation. Using the capital of the long-term insurance fund is likely to prove controversial. Prudential has been locked in dispute with the Department of Trade & Industry and then the Treasury over how much of the surplus comprises orphan assets: funds whose ownership is in dispute. Market estimates of £5 billion have recently been downgraded to £2 billion.

About half of the total £12 billion surplus is needed to meet "policyholders' reasonable expectations", ultimately as a cushion against falling stock markets. Prudential contends that much of the remaining capital belongs to the company because it consists of retained profits, cash injections by shareholders over the past 150 years and non-profit business dating back to the early part of this century.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5960.2	(+40.3)
Yield	2.81%	
FTSE All shares	2795.85	(+16.64)
Nikkei	16471.58	(+108.69)
Dow Jones	9038.48	(-10.21)
S&P Composite	1146.11	(-2.45)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(7%)
Long Bond	107 1/8%	(107 3/8%)
Yield	5.60%	(5.63%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	108.88	(108.75)
3-mth (Sep)		

### STERLING

New York	1.8860	(1.8803)
London	1.8835	(1.8804)
DM	3.0216	(3.0175)
FF	10.1210	(10.1100)
Sfr	2.5401	(2.5381)
Yen	234.08	(230.21)
£ Index	107.3	(107.1)

### US DOLLAR

London	1.8225	(1.8197)
DM	6.1120	(6.0970)
Sfr	1.3348	(1.3320)
Yen	141.69	(137.90)
£ Index	113.2	(112.5)

### Tokyo close Yen 138.18

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$14.06	(\$15.98)
WTI		
London close	\$284.25	(\$285.45)

\* denotes midday trading price

# Business to join forces in battle against euro

By JANET BUSH AND POLLY NEWTON

EUROSCPTIC British business leaders will step up their campaign against the single currency today with 100 putting their names to a new report arguing that the euro is "bad for business".

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, will address a conference in London to launch the report by the European Research Group. Also speaking will be Professor Roland Vaubel from Germany, who organised an

THE only real threat to monetary union was a culture of excessive secrecy at the European Central Bank that would undermine political legitimacy, according to William Butler, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (Janet Bush writes).

Professor Butler took issue with plans to keep minutes of ECB meetings under wraps for 17 years. He said the minutes should be available within a reasonable period. However, Professor Butler remains an EMU fan and predicted that Britain would join as soon as possible after a yes vote in a referendum because the costs of staying out are too high.

open letter by 150 anti-monetary union economists. Lord Marsh, chairman of the recently formed Business for Sterling group, which launched its campaign in a letter to *The Times* last month with 100 British business signatories, will be invited to appeal for new recruits.

As news of the launch filtered out yesterday, the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce prepared statements defending their position and offering rebuttals of the arguments against economic and monetary union in the new report.



Concert promotions will be a main focus for the new group created out of Harvey Goldsmith's entertainment business and Tring International

# Goldsmith performs £8.3m Tring deal

By CHRIS AVRES

HARVEY GOLDSMITH, the concert promoter behind entertainers ranging from Pavarotti to the Bee Gees, is to return to the stock market through an £8.3 million deal with Tring International.

Tring, the troubled discount CD group, will technically buy Harvey Goldsmith Entertainment, the tycoon's private company, with shares and cash. After the deal, Mr Goldsmith plans to buy a UK rival, though he would not say which.

Edward Simons, chairman of Allied Entertainment, Mr Goldsmith's investment vehicle which will become a major shareholder in Tring, said the business would be mainly focused on concert promotions. "You can really create assets out of concerts now by

owning the rights to provide them worldwide," he said. The Tring deal was effectively struck between three old friends: Mr Goldsmith; Mr Simons and Paul Levinson, a shareholder in both Tring and Allied. Mr Levinson plans to underwrite a

fundraising by the company — which is to be renamed — once the deal receives shareholder approval. Tring, which owns the rights to the performances of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, will continue to sell some discount CDs.

# GEC still open to merger

By ADAM JONES

LORD Simpson of Dunkeld, managing director of GEC, said yesterday he is ready to revive merger talks with Thomson-CSF, the French defence electronics group. GEC was shut out of the partial privatisation of Thomson when the French Government offered stakes to French companies only but GEC has taken heart from recent management changes.

and Lockheed Martin, the US aerospace and electronics groups, to offer them an "escape route" from their troubled merger, which is opposed by the US Government. GEC has a war chest of £5 billion for acquisitions, including net cash of about £1.2 billion. While admitting that a merger with British Aerospace is "always one of a number of options", Lord Simpson made it clear that he wants to continue progress made in improving GEC's value as an independent company. GEC shares rose yesterday

from 524½p to 536p after annual results showed profits before tax and exceptional of £1.08 billion, up from £1.01 billion. Earnings per share before exceptional rose from 23.6p to 24.7p. A final dividend of 8p per share will be paid, making 11.43p (13.5p) for the year. A bonus issue of put warrants — effectively a share buyback — will add about 2.5p a share to this payment and this will be a feature of future distributions.

# Stoy pays £30m to settle PPI case

BDO Stoy Hayward, former auditor to Asil Nadir's Polly Peck International (PPI), has paid an estimated £30 million to settle the long-outstanding negligence claim brought by PPI's administrators (Jon Ashworth writes). Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, joint administrator of PPI, had been seeking £250 million from Stoy, which denied negligence in its auditing of PPI. The case

# Russian threat to seize gas assets

By CARL MORTIMER  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS EDITOR

GAZPROM, the world's largest gas company and backbone of the Russian economy, was thrown into turmoil yesterday when the Russian Government threatened to seize its assets in an effort to recover taxes.

Within hours, the order by Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko was rescinded and an agreement was hastily cobbled together under which Gazprom will pay 4 billion roubles (£390 million) per month in taxes. Gazprom is said to owe the Russian Government almost £1.2 billion in back taxes and penalties but the company is owed a similar amount in trade debts by state-funded organisations.

Gazprom accounts for about a quarter of the financially strapped Russian government's tax income. The country lurched into crisis in May, raising interest rates to 150 per cent to shore up its battered currency. Observers reckon that pressure from the IMF to collect taxes and sell off state assets prompted the move against Gazprom. Some 40 per cent of the company is in state hands. Gazprom supplies more than a fifth of Europe's gas but the Russian company suffers a bad debt problem at home with unpaid accounts totalling about 100 billion roubles. Gazprom said yesterday it would resort to seizure of assets to collect debts; cutting off supplies in the Russian winter is hardly an option.

Commentary, page 29

Commentary, page 29

Commentary, page 29

L A N V I N  
H O M M E



# Battered South Africa points finger at Soros

LAST December, in a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela castigated corruption and greed in business, singling out "predatory elites" elsewhere in Africa. He quoted George Soros in calling on international business to accept greater social responsibility for its consequences.

His words fell on deaf ears, judging by the recent attack on the South African rand. Worse, the ringleader is alleged to be Soros himself. Mandela, in his final months as South Africa's political figurehead, is experiencing a last bitter taste of Western capitalism.

Nobody actually knows whether Soros's New York-based Quantum Fund is behind the run on the rand.

**Jon Ashworth says the impoverished township dwellers will pay the heaviest price for the plunging value of the rand**

but all the hallmarks are there. Having attacked the Thai baht, the Malaysian ringgit and the Japanese yen, the currency speculators have now launched a concerted assault on the South African currency, pushing it to unprecedented lows. The rand, worth more than the US dollar in the early eighties, is now six to the dollar and ten to the pound.

Chris Stals, the governor of the South African reserve bank, blamed last Friday's sharp fall in the currency on a single large American hedge fund, but declined to name it.

Soros, who has donated millions of dollars to South African housing projects, could well be the culprit. Market analysts say that several dozen arbitrage desks working independently can inflict just as much damage if they decide a currency is ripe for the picking.

The rand has fallen 26 per cent against the dollar since January. Since late May, when the assault began, the SA central bank has spent R26 billion, about half its foreign reserves, in seeking to shore up the currency. The repo — the repurchase

rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks — has risen 4 percentage points to more than 22 per cent. It was 15 per cent in March.

There are serious doubts as to whether the South African Government will stick to its goal of implementing tight fiscal policies. GDP growth has been revised downwards. All this presents a depressing scenario for Mr Mandela, 79, who continues in the largely ceremonial role of state president until his retirement next year. He resigned as ANC leader in December in favour of

Thabo Mbeki. South Africa has attracted little in the way of fresh foreign investment and is lagging behind in its attempts to bring housing, water and electricity to poorer areas.

When multinationals such as Shell and Kodak pulled out in the late 1970s and early 1980s, it was the local white entrepreneurs who reaped the benefits, snapping up assets at a fraction of their real value. It made them millionaires. The sanctions that followed served simply to deepen the plight of the township dwellers.

The West, having embraced sanctions, is again inflicting the maximum possible damage on the people who can least afford it.

Mandela's outburst, page 14

## Orange up as mobile subscribers increase

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE share price of Orange, the mobile telephone company, closed 33p up yesterday at 600p following news of a record second quarter in which the net number of subscribers grew by 132,000.

The increase brings Orange's total number of subscribers to 1.45 million. Orange's latest figures were released as BT announced further reductions to the cost of calling Cellnet and Vodafone mobile phones from BT lines.

From the beginning of next month charges will come down from 32p to 30p a minute during the day and from 22p to 20p during the evening and at night. At the weekend the drop will be from 10.5p to 10p. Less than three years ago BT calls to cellular phones cost 41.05p per minute during the daytime.

The latest reductions should help to simplify mobile telephone charges. The payments agreed with the two cellular companies means that calls to all four UK mobile phone companies — Cellnet, Vodafone, One-to-One and Orange are charged at the same rate. BT owns 60 per cent of Cellnet.

BT said yesterday: "As well as continuing to pass on to our customers the benefits of the lower payments which we have agreed with the other operators, it will be easier for people to understand the cost of their calls."

Yesterday, Hans Snook, group managing director of Orange, said the record growth in the second quarter, that equalled the company's highest-ever quarter, partly reflected overall growth in the market.

Together the four mobile companies added 577,000 net new mobile subscribers in the three months to the end of June to take the UK total to 9.6 million subscribers.

Orange's underlying churn, or subscriber loss rate, for the 12 months to June increased to 18.9 per cent from 16.7 per cent.

Overall, the industry hopes that half the UK population will be using mobile phones by 2004 compared to the current figure of around 16 per cent.



Michael Hardern, above, leader of the campaign to force the Nationwide Building Society to demutualise, has asked the Building Societies Commission to rule that the board has exceeded its powers by not acting reasonably in its handling of the conversion ballot (John Givens writes). His action comes after the failure over the voting forms sent to the society's 4.9 million members in June, with many claiming the form has been designed to mislead

## Microsoft pays \$5m settlement

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL GATES, the Microsoft chairman and world's wealthiest man, has bowed to the demands of a penniless British computer programmer and paid \$5 million to use his trademarked name, Internet Explorer.

Thiren Rana, a UK citizen based in Chicago who was driven into bankruptcy by Microsoft, settled out of court after alleging Mr Gates had stolen the browser name.

SyNet, Mr Rana's company, created a browser called the Internet Explorer in 1994, a year ahead of the Microsoft product of the same name.

Joseph Grear, a SyNet lawyer, said: "Microsoft gets the trademark." Lawyers for Mr

Gates had argued that Internet Explorer was a generic name, unprotected by trademark laws.

Now the software company will take over Mr Rana's trademark application, which it had disputed in court. The case was threatening to become an embarrassment to Mr Gates. His company will be tried in a federal court in Washington for monopolistic behaviour on September 8.

Mr Rana is unlikely to see more than a fraction of the \$5 million. SyNet is being pursued by creditors and lawyers and has run up million-dollar bills in preparation for the trial, which was halted after two days.

## Netscape up as suitors gather

BY OLIVER AUGUST

NETSCAPE, Microsoft's ailing rival, has made a stunning recovery, rising 30 per cent in two days. The internet browser company is in talks with General Electric and Walt Disney.

The stock hit a high of \$80 (£48) two years ago but slid to \$15 in April. Yesterday it hit \$40 in frenetic trading.

A deal could involve an agreement to co-operate on an equity sale, or both. Mike Horner, a Netscape executive vice president, named as potential partners CBS, the GE-owned NBC, Walt Disney-owned ABC and Fox, owned by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

An equity sale or even a

takeover bid would make Silicon Valley's most prominent poster boy even richer. Marc Andreessen, Netscape's 26-year-old founder, made his first \$150 million when the company was floated for \$2.7 billion in 1995. The recent price rise values Netscape at \$4 billion.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### CBI blames weather for sales setback

HIGH STREET sales decelerated in June for the third month running, largely because of the dreadful weather, according to the Confederation of British Industry. The only bright spot during the month was reported by grocers and off-licences, the latter given a boost by football fans intent on watching the World Cup at home armed with take-away beers.

The latest distributive trades survey showed that 45 per cent of retailers reported higher sales between June 4 and June 24 while 26 per cent said sales had fallen. This left a positive balance of 19 per cent, significantly lower than 25 per cent recorded in May and 26 per cent in April. The slowdown came as a surprise to retailers, but they remain optimistic that July will see an acceleration of volumes. The Monetary Policy Committee meets on Wednesday and Thursday next week for its monthly discussion on interest rate policy.

### New jobs at Vauxhall

VAUXHALL is to create more than 1,000 new jobs with the introduction of an extra shift to increase production at the Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire to a potential 180,000 Astras a year. The chairman and managing director, Nick Reilly, who recently gave up his £160,000 salary for a year as a sign of his commitment to the company, said: "The outstanding reception given to the new Astra has given us the opportunity to increase capacity earlier than we could ever have hoped for."

### Diageo sells C&C stake

DIAGEO yesterday confirmed the sale of its 49.6 per cent stake in Cantrell & Cochran, the Irish drinks distributor, to Allied Domecq for an estimated £270 million to £280 million. The deal, which gives Allied 100 per cent ownership of C&C, satisfies conditions for approval by EU competition authorities allowing Diageo to buy the 69 per cent of United Beverage Holdings (UBH), the soft drinks distributor, that it does not already own. Industry sources expect Diageo to buy out the balance for around £35 million.

### Channel 4 digital deal

CHANNEL 4 is close to a deal to take its new subscription film channel on to BSkyB's digital satellite service. Channel 4, like the BBC, has a policy of "platform neutrality", seeking to put its service on to all forms of digital television — satellite, terrestrial and cable. This will disappoint Michael Green, chairman of British Digital Broadcasting, the main commercial digital terrestrial operator. BDB wants exclusive programming to set it apart from other digital operators and would have been interested in the Channel 4 film channel.

### 'Whistleblowers' safe

EMPLOYEES who "blow the whistle" on wrongdoing at work will be protected from victimisation and dismissal under a new law which received royal assent yesterday. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 — dubbed the "whistleblowers' charter" — aims to promote greater openness by protecting workers if they take their concerns to an outside body as a last resort. The measure was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Richard Shepherd MP, a Conservative backbencher, with full Government support.

### CRH buying spree

CRH, the acquisitive Irish building materials group, spent £84 million (£67.2 million) on new ventures in the first half of the year, including £136 million on acquisitions in the US, embracing asphalt and ready-mix concrete businesses in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado, some £14 million on new plant in Ireland and £117 million on several small building products companies in Europe. In Argentina, CRH has acquired the remaining shares in Canteras Cerro Negro, the country's leading roof tile company with sales of £40 million.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

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**BAITERS, LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 90 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Messrs. J. & J. B. Baiters, Limited, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0J, on Friday, 3rd July 1998, at 11.00 AM, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding up of the company.

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# Pru pays £1bn to eat humble pie



## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

The prospect of facing a House of Commons select committee is fast assuming nightmare status for businessmen. Sir Richard Sykes almost had his nails pulled out as the politicians tried to establish why he had failed to consummate the merger of his Glaxo-Wellcome with SmithKline Beecham. On Wednesday, Andrew Millar was reduced to tears as MPs on the Science and Technology Committee grilled him on goings-on at British Biotech.

Yesterday, it was the turn of Sir Peter Davis to confront the Treasury Select Committee and the result was far from edifying. Sir Peter did what many of his colleagues in the financial services industry have decided they must do: he grovelled.

Yet if the vigorous selling of personal pensions was a scandal, its unravelling is beginning to look equally scandalous. Companies such as the Pru have now been battered into submission by the Government, and particularly Treasury Minister, Helen Liddell. They were at fault in not moving faster to clear up the mess, but the way in which they are now paying huge sums to settle the issue is also culpable. The Pru knows that among those demanding redress there are undeserving as well as deserving cases but it is bowing to Government pressure, and the blackmail threat that it may in the future be excluded from lucrative markets, and sending out the

cheques. The cost of a quiet life, apart from the bruising to Sir Peter's knees, is an estimated bill of £1.1 billion.

Although the Pru, and its colleagues, like to infer that this money can be found in a secret hiding place and it will not affect the fortunes of policyholders at all, shareholders will be hit. The logical argument says that they enjoyed the profits from mis-selling and should now pay the penalty but shareholders may also feel that their company owes them a duty to minimise the liability.

As the mis-selling review moves into phase two, the companies are likely to feel even more inclined to settle speedily, yet the claims will be hugely complicated to assess. Sir Peter and the rest of his industry should beware of being browbeaten into shelling out shareholders' cash at the behest of the likes of Brian Sedgmore MP, who relished the chance to savage the man who, when he is not running the Pru, is actually heading the Government's drive to curb youth unemployment.

Of course, one would have slightly more sympathy for the victims of Mr Sedgmore's self-righteousness if it were not for

the fact that they still seem reluctant to stop customers from mis-buying. The latest research into pensions selling indicates that pushing the wrong product is still almost the norm. This is likely to remain the case as long as selling the product brings the salesman commission. The Pru is altering its commission structure but it is not brave enough to ditch the concept of commission. While there is commission to be earned, mis-selling will abound.

### Simpson tidies up around the House

Not so long ago, Lord Simpson of Dunkeld and John Mayo resembled those unfortunate Greeks who got on the wrong side of the Gods and had to endure a bizarre and eternal punishment.

The fate of the GEC men was to trudge around the world, pockets burdened with more than £1

billion of cash and billions more in borrowed money — with nothing to spend it on.

Contrast this with Mr Mayo's demeanour yesterday. Asked how much GEC had to spend on acquisitions, the finance director cheerfully replied that the group could lay its hands on about £5 billion in "readily available spondoolicks". He sounded like a man with a shopping list.

The City is warming to the company in its positive, post-Weinstock incarnation. Much of what the new management has done is simply good housekeeping, the same kind of corporate modernisation Lord Weinstock carried out when he hauled the British electrical industry out of its post-war stagnation with a tough new regime of cost accounting. The establishment this year of a £4 billion standby debt facility improved GEC's muscle in an industry where those who move slowest will get eaten. The old industrial group has been tidied.

Businesses that did not fit with the new focus on high tech, high margins have been sold.

GEC had become dependent on joint ventures for about 50 per cent of its earnings and sales. After the latest unravelling, which saw Alstom floated and GEC take all of the GPT telecoms arm formed with Siemens, the level should have fallen to about 15 per cent. Lord Simpson is not averse to forming new partnerships but they will be kept on a tight rein.

The acquisition of Tracor, a US defence electronics group, was greeted as a coup and evidence of Simpson's ability to spot the deals. So far, so good, and in appreciation the market has sent the shares up by a disproportionate 60 per cent since last August.

GEC is now in a much stronger position to make deals on both sides of the Atlantic. Surprisingly, then, the man most important to its future, and that of its 126,000 employees, should have accepted an invitation to become a working

peer. It is true that Lord Simpson does not put in the same hours at the House as some of his recently ennobled colleagues — Lord (David) Sainsbury, for instance, exited the boardroom of his family firm almost as the emine hit his shoulders. But this hardly suggests that democracy is getting the best deal, even if GEC shareholders may be.

### The mature view of anti-EMU stance

What is perceived to be inevitable, inevitably becomes acceptable. This has been the risk with the issue of Britain joining the single European currency. Cheered on by the voice of big business and the enthusiasm of the Prime Minister, the idea that Britain will enter EMU has been gradually gaining credence even among those hostile to the project. The Bank of England has been encouraging retailers and finance houses to be prepared for when the time comes and the message, conveyed gently, but persistently, is that it is definitely "when" not "if". The Bank is, perhaps, afeared that unless organisations believe that

they must gear up for Britain's entry into Euroland they will, quite reasonably, not do so. That could lead to chaos should the Government want to move speedily into the single currency after an early election, rapidly followed by a referendum.

But at last we are beginning to hear the voice of a business lobby against Britain joining EMU. The 100 business leaders who have endorsed the anti-EMU study published today overlap closely with those who are backing the recently launched Business for Sterling group, being fronted by the sprightly septuagenarian Lord Marsh. The average age of the "antis" might concern actuaries but the task for them is to shout loudly enough to be heard by those more glibly youngsters who have been persuaded that Britain's entry is a foregone conclusion.

### Pecked

AMAZINGLY, Polly Peck subsidised nearly eight years ago. Asil Nadir still frolics but the long purgatory of Stoy Hayward, Mr Nadir's too-trusting auditor, has ended in a settlement that seems to reflect ability to pay and even some realistic degree of blame, instead of just targeting supposedly deep pockets. This is welcome. Auditors sign accounts at their peril but silly mega-claims on auditors of failed firms benefit only lawyers.

## Bulmer chief plans to put the sparkle back in cider

By Dominic Walsh

HP BULMER, the UK's biggest cidermaker, yesterday quashed recent takeover speculation and claimed the business has a strong future as an independent company.

Mike Hughes, chief executive, dismissed the bid speculation that has dogged the group since a profit warning in February, focusing instead on plans to revive Bulmer's fortunes. "The potential is tremendous," he said.

His comments came as he revealed a 26 per cent slump in profits before tax and exceptional items to £221 million in the year to April 30. Turnover was 4 per cent lower at £298.2 million and earnings per share were 27 per cent lower at 26.4p. The final dividend is 9.8p, making 15.0p (14.52p). The profits decline stemmed

largely from a flood of imports of cheap foreign beer before Christmas and unprofitable promotions run by some of the UK's biggest retailers. In addition, a price war in the white cider category badly affected its White Lightning brand.

Exceptionals included the £1.62 million cost of installing new systems across the business and a further £2.5 million from the closure of the Inch's plants in Devon, which should save £1 million a year in costs.

The woes of Bulmer and its biggest rivals, Matthew Clark and Merrydown, have prompted fears over the future of the entire cider market. However, Mr Hughes pointed out that sales had grown steadily over the past 30 years, checked only by two tax increases, and the recent prob-



Nash: Merrydown revamp

lems stemmed from a sharp reduction in marketing spend by the big players. In common with its rivals, Bulmer is now investing heavily in its key Strongbow, Scrumpy Jack and White Lightning brands. It will

spend £7 million this year, including £4.5 million on a television advertising campaign with Johnny Vaughan, of The Big Breakfast.

An even more dramatic makeover is being conducted by Andy Nash, the new chairman at Merrydown, which has just completed a financial restructuring after almost collapsing. The slimmed down group, which last week shed half of its 120-strong Sussex workforce, will put £2 million behind its two key brands, Merrydown and Shloer.

Mr Nash, who unveiled losses of £4.1 million in the year to March 31 after one-off costs of £3.1 million, said: "We think we've got two brands that, with a bit of pizzazz and marketing spend, should put £10 million on the bottom line."

Tempus, page 30

### Thorn buys Australian rival for £25m

THORN, the rentals group that this week agreed to a £1.2 billion takeover by Nomura, is buying its main competitor in Australia (Sarah Cunningham writes). It hopes to find a buyer for the enlarged Australian business as soon as possible as part of its plan to sell all its overseas assets.

Thorn is paying £25 million for Eclipse Retail, which trades as Rendo and is a subsidiary of Philips. The business made operating profits of £4.1 million last year on turnover of £12.2 million. It has net assets of £18.8 million.

Thorn is market leader in rentals in Australia, ahead of Rendo, where it trades as Radio Rentals and Redifire. Thorn also announced that it has sold its Benelux rental business to local management for £4.3 million.

## EMI reviews staff salary packages

By Chris Ayres

EMI, the troubled UK music group whose share price has suffered from controversy over lavish payoffs and an aborted takeover bid from Canada's Seagram, is renegotiating multimillion-pound salary packages for its new board members.

Ken Berry, 46, chief executive of EMI Recorded Music, and Martin Bandier, 56, head of EMI Music Publishing, were promoted to the board of EMI in April. Their appointments followed the resignation of Jim Ffield, former head of the company's music division, with a £125 million payoff.

An EMI spokesman said: "It's a case of attracting the right people to run the business. The remuneration is not unusual by the standards of the North American music industry." Music industry ex-

ecutives traditionally regard themselves as being as talented as their performers and reward themselves accordingly.

The new contracts are expected to include an increase in remuneration for both men and a change from fixed-term contracts to rolling two-year agreements. Mr Bandier is thought to earn a basic salary of \$2 million (£1.2 million), and enjoys a performance-related incentive award worth up to 90 per cent of his salary. He can also earn a share performance award of up to \$1.4 million.

Mr Berry has an estimated basic salary of \$1.3 million and is entitled to share options. Both men are among the highest-paid directors of British quoted companies. EMI's shares fell 5p to 514p yesterday, compared with a high of 738½p in 1996.

### OEPC issue hampered by Regent

THE woes of Regent Inns, which last week saw its share price savaged after it revealed a catalogue of accounting errors, have caused a hangover at Old English Pub Company (Dominic Walsh writes).

The pub operator said yesterday that the £30 million rights issue launched at the end of May had been supported by just 46.4 per cent of shareholders.

When OEPC launched the rights issue at 330p a share it was riding high at more than 380p. By last night's close it had shed a further 15½p to 300½p. A source close to the company said: "There's no doubt the Regent situation took the wind out of this issue's sails." OEPC plans to use the proceeds to add 50 units to its existing 120-strong estate.

## Daiwa sells equity unit to Barclays Capital

By Richard Miles  
Banking Correspondent

BARCLAYS CAPITAL, the investment banking arm of the high street bank, is paying about \$10 million (£6 million) for the equity financing unit of Daiwa, the Japanese securities house.

Described by City analysts as "an in-fill" acquisition, Barclays Capital said the deal would allow it to expand its services to institutional clients, particularly hedge funds and fund managers.

The purchase brings 52 people and operations in New York, London and Hong Kong. The business is headed by Kevin Mirabile, a former Morgan Stanley executive who established it for Daiwa three years ago. Mr Mirabile, who is based in New York, will join Barclays Capital, principally reporting to Thomas Kalaris, chief executive for the Americas.

Barclays Capital, which has an AA credit rating, said the new unit would enable it to offer securities lending, equities derivatives financing — as well as repos and swaps — as well as bringing a prime brokerage business.

Daiwa put the unit up for sale six months ago after a decision to concentrate on its core equity financing business. The sale was also prompted by the tougher funding requirements for Japanese financial institutions as the country embraces market deregulation.



Declan O'Farrell, chief executive, sees a chance for synergies in the London Northern acquisition

## Metroline in £42m bus deal

By Matthew Barbour

SHARES in Metroline, the North London bus company bought out from London Transport in 1994, soared by 30½p to 305p after the company announced its first big acquisition since flotation last year.

Metroline is buying MTL London Northern, another of the London bus companies privatised four years ago in a deal valued at £41.9 million. The acquisition will double Metroline's share of the London market from 7 to 14

per cent and is being part funded by a two-for-five rights issue at 250p per share, to raise about £21.5 million. Employees will be offered the opportunity to share in the enlarged group's fortunes, with 800,000 new shares being made available at 250p per share.

Declan O'Farrell, chief executive of Metroline, said: "The deal will create enormous opportunities for synergies and operational efficiencies. It is our first significant step in

growing the company into a broad-based passenger transport group."

London Northern employs 1,200 staff and runs about 400 buses covering 46 routes.

In the year to March 1998 London Northern made pre-tax profits of £2 million on turnover of £36.8 million. Shares in Metroline, which is currently valued at £65 million, were issued last July at 173p. The extraordinary meeting to approve the deal will be held on July 20.



## Shopfitter sues Savoy for £2.8m

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Savoy Group is being sued by a contractor for refusing to pay a £2.8 million bill for work carried out during the recent lavish refurbishment of Claridge's.

Timtec International, a privately owned Derbyshire shopfitter and interior designer, carried out much of the refurbishment work on Claridge's Art Deco and Victorian wings. The two companies failed to agree a price while the work, which was finished last year,

was being done and Timtec is still waiting to be paid. Timtec is claiming £2.39 million plus VAT in a writ that has been served on the Savoy Group.

The Savoy Group, which was bought in April by the American Blackstone investment firm for £520 million, spent about £40 million on the two-year refurbishment of Claridge's.

Alan Fort, finance director of the Savoy, said that the company had been advised by its quantity surveyors, architects and project managers that the Timtec bill was too high, but he declined

to say how much the company would like to pay. The bill should not come as a nasty surprise to the new owners, as provisions have been made to cover the outstanding costs of the refurbishment work. Mr Fort said he hopes the matter can be settled before it reaches court.

Timtec, which is working at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in London, said it had suggested arbitration. However, Mr Fort said the contracts involved had not had an arbitration clause, meaning litigation was the only route once direct negotiations broke down.

LA









# City may have cause to rue its mayor

## THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

If some faintly dubious recent opinion polls are to be believed, Richard Branson merely has to announce his candidacy to become London's first ever directly elected mayor. Mr Branson's election would be a delicious rebuff both to those has-been politicians who have so far declared their own desire to run and to the spin-doctors who persuaded Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury, that you can never get anywhere in politics with a beard.

It would also provide a fitting climax to a long campaign by London business to increase its presence in the City's government. Unlike the plans for Scottish devolution, which have resulted in some of Edinburgh's business elite heretically muttering about relocating south of the border, London's mayor has had enthusiastic backing from companies across the capital. Senior City figures such as Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, have also been able to use their impeccable New Labour credentials to guarantee that London businesses have had a loud voice in drafting the new proposals.

It was not ever thus. Business shed few tears at the abolition of the Greater

London Council and during the boom days of the late 1980s seemed quite content to let central government quangos and loony left-wing local councils get on haphazardly with the job of trying to run London.

The recession in the early 1990s, which exposed many of London's deep-seated problems, however, persuaded the City that it could not afford to persist with a purely laissez faire approach to London government. London First, an umbrella organisation for large City companies, was born in an effort to get the message across to the Government that something urgent had to be done about the City's creaking infrastructure.

For once, the Government at all levels appears to have listened. Sir Michael Pickard, the new chairman of London First, believes that not only has central government taken on board the views of business but that relations with the local authorities have dramatically improved. Gone are the ideologically driven coun-

cils of 1980s infamy to be largely replaced by hard-working local authorities determined to work with business to improve the quality of life in the city.

The full measure of London First's success has been that a large part of its business agenda has been adopted by the Government. Ask any company in London about the city issue that most concerns them and the inevitable answer will be transport — hardly a surprise to any of the hundreds of thousands of workers who crowd through Bank Tube station each morning. London businesses are desperate to see some serious action taken to try and relieve the City's overcrowded Underground system and



ALASTAIR MURRAY

grid-locked roads. The new mayor's assumption of transport powers can not come too soon for companies that are losing millions of pounds a year due to the inadequacies of the capital's infrastructure.

Companies in the City also like the mayor's second guise. The mayor will provide an instantly recognisable figurehead, a person who can go abroad to bat for London as an international business centre. Of course, the City has always had the Lord Mayor to do his bit at the international investment fairs, but few businesses believe the arcane election procedures have conferred much status on the Lord Mayor since Dick Whittington failed in his fourth re-election attempt.

On paper, then, the London mayoral plans are a dream reform for the capital's businesses. The Government has even established the London Development Partnership, chaired by the ubiquitous Sir Colin, to provide a report on the City's economic needs. The committee should metamorphose into London's Development Agency, providing a permanent forum for business, once the mayor has been elected.

The problem is that in the battle to become mayor, the *bête noire* of the business world — politics — is already rearing its ugly head. The mayor remains above all a political figure and unless Richard Branson decides he wants to spend millions on his own election campaign — and somehow extricate himself from countless conflicts of interest — one of the established parties will provide the mayor.

This simple fact brings with it countless uncertainties including the possibility that Ken Livingstone could somehow

end up running London in *Red Ken II* — *The GLC's Revenge*. The redoubtable Mr Livingstone has already launched his election campaign touting such business-unfriendly ideas as a local corporation tax and even some kind of "fat cat" hike in personal taxation.

In the current political climate, it is more likely that a figure who is willing to listen to business will ultimately prevail. However, the election of a new mayor is ultimately an exercise in local democracy designed to end years of rule by quango. Business is sure to find quickly that its interests are not always in harmony with the City as a whole. It may be easy to get everyone's agreement for Tube improvements but far more difficult when serious environmental issues are involved. Business supports the building of Terminal 5 at Heathrow, something that the local authorities in the area have clearly set themselves against. There is no reason to believe a mayor of any political colour will want to ignore the wishes of West London residents. A few more mayoral decisions of this nature and businesses may yearn once more for the days when there was no one running the capital.

# Hearts and minds grow seeds of doubt

## Carl Mortished on a US company keen to muscle into Europe selling genetically modified food products

Prince Charles may not like it, but Europe is becoming a new battleground in which Americans seek to influence our hearts and minds in order to put food in our stomachs.

Peruse your weekend newspapers and you might notice that a company called Monsanto is placing advertisements aimed at convincing us that genetically modified food is not just safe but a good thing, too. The St Louis-based company recently became embroiled in an angry spat with the Prince of Wales. The heir to the throne publicly voiced his opposition to the introduction of genetically engineered corn into England's green fields.

Monsanto told the Prince to leave regulation to the regulators and retaliated with a £1 million advertising campaign, including telephone information lines and an Internet website.



Prince Charles: angered

A storm in a tea-cup? Who cares about a bunch of seeds? Monsanto cares very deeply indeed and this week it gave evidence of its concern, agreeing to pay \$1.4 billion (£940 million) for the international seed operations of Cargill, the American grain traders and food processors. That agreement follows closely two similar deals: the \$4 billion purchase of DeKalb Genetics and Delta & Pine Land, both important seed producers.

For a group which had total sales last year of \$7 billion, these are big investments. Monsanto is burning rubber on a race to become the world leader in life sciences, the spin-off from the amazing technology that is emerging from laboratories in the US. By inserting new genes into the genomes of plants, the technique engineers crops that are resistant to disease and

that repel insects. The promise of genetic engineering is cheaper food in greater quantities in forms, shapes and sizes that make life easy for food processors. Monsanto promises a rich harvest, more food for the world, less use of pesticides and big profits. Its slogan, brandished across its literature is pithy, punchy and a touch arrogant: "Food. Health. Hope."

Monsanto is not running a lonely marathon; fellow American companies such as DuPont, the chemicals group, are rivals alongside Novartis, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant and the German chemical combines, Hoechst and Bayer. In the heavily invested in plant genetics, producing a new breed of tomato designed to make better tomato paste, widely sold in UK supermarkets.

But manipulating genes to make new species arouses primitive fears. Add to that the BSE disaster and you end up with a cocktail of suspicion and anxiety that has probably set back Monsanto's attempts to introduce its products into this country. Trial plantings of genetically modified oilseed rape and maize are being conducted under government supervision, but the green lobby, including Greenpeace and the Soil Association, is deeply opposed and has, as mentioned above, an unrelated but highly influential ally.

In France, the Confédération Paysanne, a farmers' lobby group, is waging war against the perceived genetic invasion. Some farmers invaded a Novartis warehouse and destroyed cornseed sacks, using the subsequent trial to launch a public debate about genetically modified food.

With perfect logic, Monsanto explains that it has every-



Monsanto, the St Louis-based manufacturer, has adopted an aggressive global marketing strategy that has provoked French farmers' protests in Lyon

thing to fear and nothing to gain from a health or environmental disaster. It points out that the technology is at least 20 years old, tested in endless trials and works jolly well Stateside.

Beyond the spectre of genetic monsters lies a deeper concern about power and control: Monsanto's efforts to vacuum up seed companies should raise questions not just for its green critics but even its shareholders.

Monsanto's strategy is all about marketing and distribution muscle; with a brace of seed companies under its arm, Monsanto can get its own intellectual property, the patented genes, into a huge number of seed varieties and ultimately find its way into farms and fields worldwide.

With DeKalb in its grip, Monsanto will probably have about 45 per cent of the US cornseed market. Another 45

per cent is taken by Pioneer, a seed company in which DuPont has acquired a 20 per cent stake.

The purchase of Cargill's non-US seed business takes Monsanto to 51 countries, adding market clout in corn, sunflower and rapeseeds as well as soybean, alfalfa, sorghum wheat and hybrid rice. According to the Monsanto president, Hendrik Verfaillie, it will enable the company to bring its genetic traits to crop acreage roughly double the area in its home patch in the US and Canada.

Mr Verfaillie said: "We can accelerate commercialisation through established distribution channels that will bring these and our future agronomic and quality traits to more farmers around the world."

Such talk is like a red rag to a bull at the Soil Association. Patrick Holden, its director,

said: "It's corporate control on a grand scale. You own the patents on the seeds, you own the herbicides and then you own the seed companies — you get complete control."

A spokesman from Monsanto rejected this scenario as fantasy: "If we owned all the seedcorn in North and South America we would only own 10 per cent of the varieties in the world."

Still, back in St Louis, Monsanto's marketing clout is making big inroads into US agriculture and the key is the link between herbicides and plant breeding. The company owns Round-up, the world's best-selling herbicide, worth billions in sales, but its patent expires at the turn of the century. This should not be a problem as Monsanto has developed new crop breeds resistant to the herbicide.

Farmers can spray fields liberally with Round-Up

knowing that while every competing weed will die, their Round-up Ready soy plants will thrive.

According to Wood Mackenzie, the research consultants, Round-up Ready soy has taken America by storm. From a standing start in 1996, the crop has taken root in 27 per cent of all US fields planted with soy.

To the Soil Association, this sort of advance spells a threat to biodiversity. The organisation fears that the agribusiness industry wants a world made of vast areas of monoculture leading to an ecological desert.

Equally unclear is whether Monsanto's huge investments will pay off. One Wall Street agro-chemical analyst, who would not be named, said that Monsanto was paying top dollar for seed investments, hardly surprising given the heat in this market. Last year,

Monsanto paid almost 22 times sales for Holden's Iowa seed concern.

Monsanto's stock price has risen almost sixfold over the last five years, raising its market value from \$6 billion to \$33 billion. The Cargill deal

enables Monsanto to catch up with Pioneer, the number one seed company worldwide, but Monsanto refused to disclose even a sales figure for the Cargill operation.

Monsanto is keen to spread the good news about genetic engineering but it is less open about how much money its own business makes. The accounts are opaque on the subject of plant genetics which form part of its agriculture division, which includes herbicides. Sales in agriculture were \$3.1 billion last year and operating income of just \$112 million, but that includes charges of \$633 million. A Monsanto spokesman said a better indicator of growth is that 1998 biotechnology fees (the money it earns from putting its wizardry into plants) will be six times the 1996 figure.

Confusing the picture even further is a \$33 billion merger agreement announced this month with American Home Products, a deal which will reinforce Monsanto's own pharmaceutical arm but raises questions among some investors about focus.

Paying for growth with a cheque book is not the only way to go. Britain's Zeneca has chosen to move in the opposite direction, hiving off its seed operations into a joint venture. The company felt that the cost of becoming big in seeds was too great, preferring contracts with seed producers. But the prize has not yet been won. No small element in the growth in Monsanto's stock price is bid speculation. DuPont is occasionally named as a potential bidder for both Monsanto and Zeneca. The US chemicals group announced recently that it was selling off Conoco, its oil subsidiary. That provides room for manoeuvre.

# Hacked off

INTO the 21st century with Lloyd's of London. The insurance market yesterday launched its new website "designed to enhance the market's profile and the business processes of the insurance market". The trouble is that the website does not work, at least not from this office.

I know little of these things, but a colleague who does could access only a blue screen with some rather pretty grey rectangles on it. These should have been filled with lettering, but they weren't. I ring Lloyd's. "That's bizarre," says the man. "We've got a gremlin." He goes away. "That's

odd," he says when he comes back. He goes away again. He comes back. "You've possibly not got the right browser software." What does that mean? "Don't ask." He comes back a fourth time. "There's probably an incompatibility problem."

What does... oh, never mind. I agree to ring him back and tell him which browser we use, which will allow his techies to sort it out. I do this — it is either of two very common ones, which suggests the problem is widespread. "Bizarre," he says and goes away again. By now I am wondering whether I should be charging consultancy fees. No further response, and some hours later the page remains unobtainable.

THE dear old Association of Investment Trusts, which some might regard as a little stuffy and old-fashioned, has its finger firmly on the pulse of Cool Britannia. At the Association's summer party the other night someone put on a tape of that new "pop" music today's young people really go for. There are, alas, several reasons why Gary Glitter was not a terribly clever choice.

## Count on rows

TROUBLE in New York. Just a day after the formal merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand. Tomorrow is Independence Day and



would be a rare public holiday in the US, except that it is Saturday. For some reason Coopers, easily the more Gradgrind-ish of the two, had decreed that its employees would not only have today off in lieu, as is normal practice, but yesterday as well.

Then someone discovered, just as the two started off their married life together, that Price Waterhouse people had only been given today off. There were requests for equalisation, but the management refused. So all the Price Waterhouse types trooped into the office as usual, grumbling that the merged body was dominated by Coopers people and how unfair it all was. Not an auspicious start.

## Daily grind

I SEE Avis Europe is buying Avis Greece. I hope they will be very

happy together, but I cannot help recalling the time I hired a car on a remote and mountainous Greek island. Nothing wrong with it, except that it was disconcerting to discover how easily you could slip in and out of various gears without first depressing the clutch. Those remote mountain trails can be unforgiving on a mere machine.

Back in the UK, I told a Greek friend. He responded with a story he claimed was true of a Greek woman who returned her car to the garage, with a modest number of miles on the clock, complaining that it was making funny noises and running increasingly slowly. The mechanic, who noticed the car was parked in third, asked if she had experienced any trouble changing gears. "Gears?" she asked, looking baffled.

## Short order

AS THE vultures pick over the bones of the bust restaurant chain Pierre Victoire, a sighting of founder and former owner. And a bit of a come-down for the ebullient Pierre Levicky, a man who finds it hard to stay still for long. He has been taken on by the franchisee of the branch at Edinburgh's Union Street as head chef, says *Caterer & Hotelkeeper*, the trade magazine.

SPEAKING of vultures, my item about Lazard's troubles, as reported in *Fortune* magazine recently, attracted an immediate phone call from someone keen to track the piece down. A head-hunter, as it happens.

I will not identify him, but stand by your phones, chaps.

## Sitting duck

BRITISH AIRWAYS staff arrived at the swish, new Waterside headquarters at Heathrow a few days ago to find a bottle of plastic ducks which someone had installed in the lake which runs partially inside the building. The ducks were glued together in a long sycophantic line, beak right up to... anyway, the biggest duck, the one in front, for some reason had the name "Bob" stuck on it. The fowls have now been separated, and "Bob" is now bobbing around by himself.

MARTIN WALLER



Bobbing along: someone at BA's headquarters has a funny sense of humour



"The Pentagon's easy, but can he hack into the Lloyd's website?"

30p THE TIMES

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# Japan approves bridge bank loan rescue scheme

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

JAPAN yesterday approved the setting up of a "bridge bank" to help with the orderly winding up of bankrupt commercial banks but there was no mention of the permanent tax cuts that the financial markets had been hoping for.

Despite a flurry of press conferences in Tokyo, including appearances by the Finance Minister, Governor of the Bank of Japan and the head of Japan's financial regulator, the currency market, in particular, was left unimpressed. The dollar jumped to ¥140.90 from an earlier low of ¥137.92 by morning trading in Europe.

Stock markets in Asia, however, reacted positively. The bank rescue plans were announced after the Tokyo market had closed but shares rose in anticipation of the proposals. The Nikkei 225 index closed 108.69 points higher at 16,471.58, a rise of 0.66 per cent.

Hong Kong gained 5 per cent, partly reflecting that it missed Wednesday's rally in Asian stocks because of a public holiday. Stocks had risen on Wednesday because of speculation of tax cuts in Japan.

Shares in Thailand rallied by nearly 4 per cent yesterday

with the Manila market up more than 4 per cent and Jakarta up by more than 2 per cent.

Under the bridge bank scheme, failed banks will be put under temporary public administration before being closed, allowing their healthy loans business to be taken over by bridge banks.

Legislation to establish the banks has yet to be voted on by the Japanese Parliament at an extraordinary session expected to convene at the end of this month.

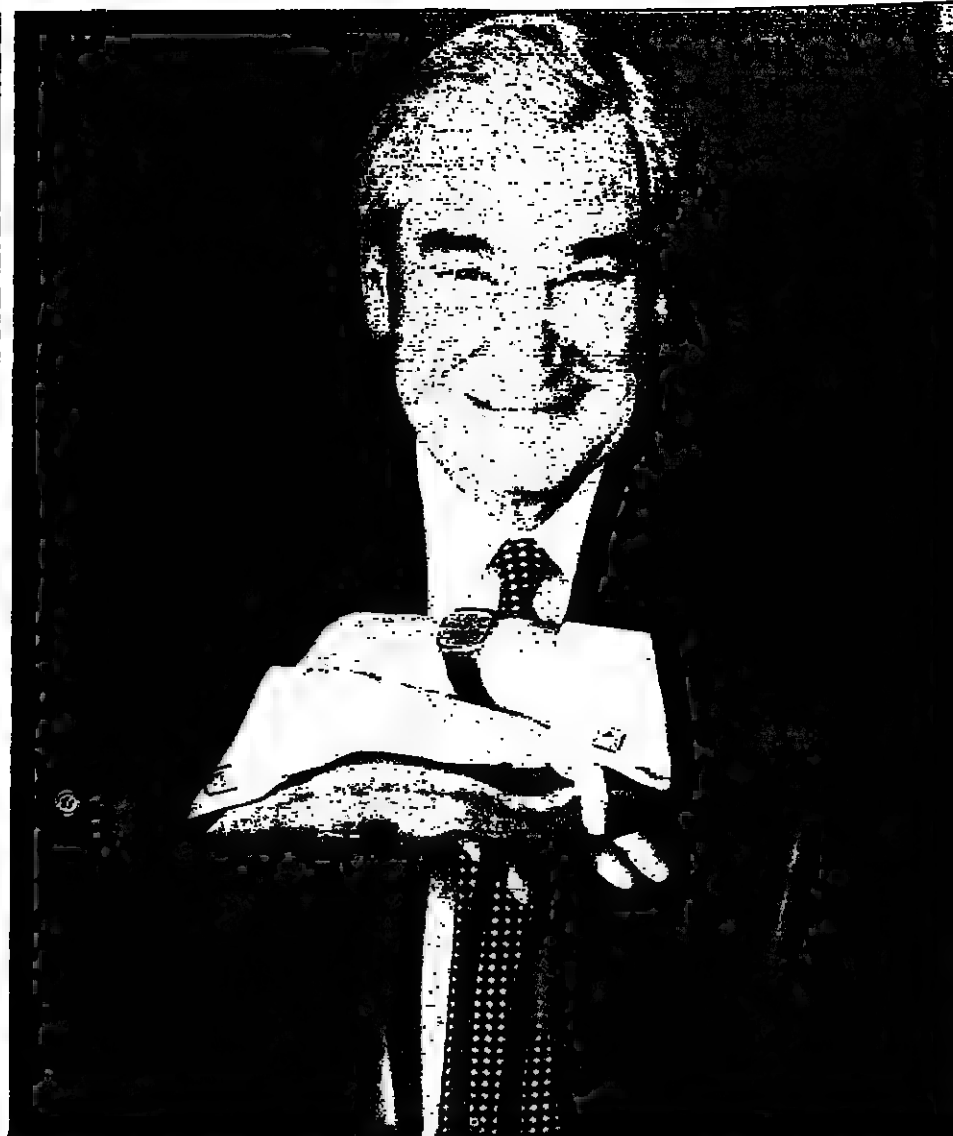
Hikaru Matsunaga, Japan's Finance Minister, made clear yesterday that the maximum amount of public money to be used for the bridge bank scheme would be ¥13 trillion already earmarked for financial stabilisation.

Okisharu Yasuoka, the head of the LDP panel on bad loans, said that he thought the ¥13 trillion would be enough but added that, if necessary, the Government was ready to make more public funds available, apparently contradicting the Finance Minister.

Although the markets were disappointed that no tax cuts were announced, Mr Matsunaga hinted that these are still on the agenda. He said that Japan would pursue discussions over tax reforms, including personal income taxes, which would, he said, "be fair, transparent and conducive to creating demand".

It was also announced yesterday that the Financial Supervisory Agency and the Bank of Japan will conduct investigations of the top 19 Japanese banks over the next two to three months.

Masaru Hayami, Governor of the central bank, said that its most recent inspection of the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan showed that its liabilities did not exceed its assets. The bank has been subject to intense financial market speculation about its health recently.



Can he stay in the chair? Today sees Denis Cassidy's second fight for survival in a year

## Cassidy faces close call on Oliver rights issue

By JASON NISSE

ONLY last autumn Denis Cassidy lost his fight to remain chairman of Liberty. Today, as the new Liberty board reveals the famous department store's results, the former Bhs and Boddingtons chief will find out whether he is to be defeated in a second corporate battle within a year, so losing his post as chairman of Oliver Group, the shoe retailer.

The vote at today's extraordinary meeting could not be closer. The motion on the table does not actually call for the departure of either Mr Cassidy or Martin Watts managing director of Oliver.

In fact the motion is being put forward by Oliver's management, which wants to raise £5.5 million through a one-for-one rights issue. It says it needs the money to invest in the group's shoe shops, but a previous plan to raise the money through a placing with institutional shareholders was blocked by rebel investors, including the Oliver family.

The rebels say Oliver does not need the money, and that Mr Cassidy and Mr Watts, who have presided over losses of £18 million in the past three years, should not be trusted with any more cash.

Ken Bartle, the former head

of Stead & Simpson, who is leading the rebels, says they now speak for 35 per cent of Oliver's shares. Mr Cassidy claims support from 30 per cent. Of the remainder, the crucial shareholding is the 17 per cent held by Flemings, which has not indicated how it will vote.

Should Mr Cassidy succeed today, it is not certain that he will be able to remain as chairman anyway. If he loses, he is almost certain to resign. But on the bright side, he is expected to pick up another chairmanship soon — that of Newcastle United, the Premiership football club.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Vodafone directors cash in share options

KENNETH HYDON, a director of Vodafone, the mobile telephone group, made a profit of £1.39 million yesterday on share dealings. He effectively bought 208,800 shares under option for £351,283 and then sold them at 835p a share for £1.74 million. Mr Hydon retains a stake of 213,450 shares in the company and has 328,304 unexercised share options.

Julian Horn-Smith, another Vodafone director, bought 117,300 shares held under option for £194,738 and then sold 102,300 shares at 835p each for £854,205. He has retained 15,000 shares. Mr Horn-Smith now has 115,696 shares in the company and has 352,719 share options. Shares in Vodafone jumped yesterday from 796p to 844p. On Wednesday Vodafone revealed an increase of 680,000 in the number of new customers around the world in the April-June quarter of whom 206,000 were in Britain.

## Qualceram expanding

QUALCERAM, the ceramics group, is to create 280 jobs during the next three years through a £19 million (£15.2 million) investment backed by Forbairt, Ireland's enterprise development agency. The company is to set up a joint venture with the Turkish group Ecacibasi Karo Seramik on a tile manufacturing project and is to expand its existing operations by enlarging the ceramics plant, doubling output from its acrylic plant and starting to manufacture bathroom furniture. Qualceram employs 110 people.

## Haggas issues warning

SHARES in J Haggas dived from 67½p to 48½p after the textiles group warned the stock market that it would make only £1 million before tax in the year to June 30 despite making £700,000 in the latest half year. Last year the company made £2.22 million before tax on sales of £43.8 million against a previous £2.7 million. Haggas blamed "the continued strength of the pound, the collapse in knitwear demand and the state of some of our main UK customers".

## Carr's Milling venture

CARR'S MILLING, the food producer, is to form a 50-50 joint venture with Billington Agriculture to make feeds for ruminants. Chris Holmes, chief executive of Carr's, said: "Reduction in demand has led to uncompetitively high costs per tonne for the milling of our animal feed. By combining our animal feed milling operations with those of Billington, the increased throughput and the potential cost savings from consolidation of operations will make the joint venture company one of the lowest-cost ruminant feed producers in the UK."

## Avis returns to Greece

AVIS EUROPE, the car rental group, said it has acquired Avis Greece, its former licensee company in Greece. Alun Cathcart, chairman and chief executive of Avis Europe, said: "Greece continues to be a top global tourism destination and this transaction completes the group's corporate presence in the principal Mediterranean markets, enabling us to extract maximum advantage from future growth opportunities. We anticipate this acquisition will be earnings enhancing to the Avis group within the first year of operation."

## Airbus secures US Airways deal

By ADAM JONES

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE has secured an order for seven A330-300 aircraft from US Airways but it has played down speculation that it has beaten Boeing to a ground-breaking order from British Airways.

Airbus said yesterday that US Airways may take up to 30 of the twin-engine A330-300, giving the deal a value of about \$3.5 billion (£2.1 billion) if the airline converts seven options and 16 reserved delivery positions into firm orders.

The order comes a day after Air France signed a contract to buy 20 planes from the A320 family, for a consideration of about \$900 million at catalogue prices.

US Airways will use the planes on transatlantic routes. Delivery of the firm orders will begin in late 1999. The airline has not yet chosen an engine manufacturer.

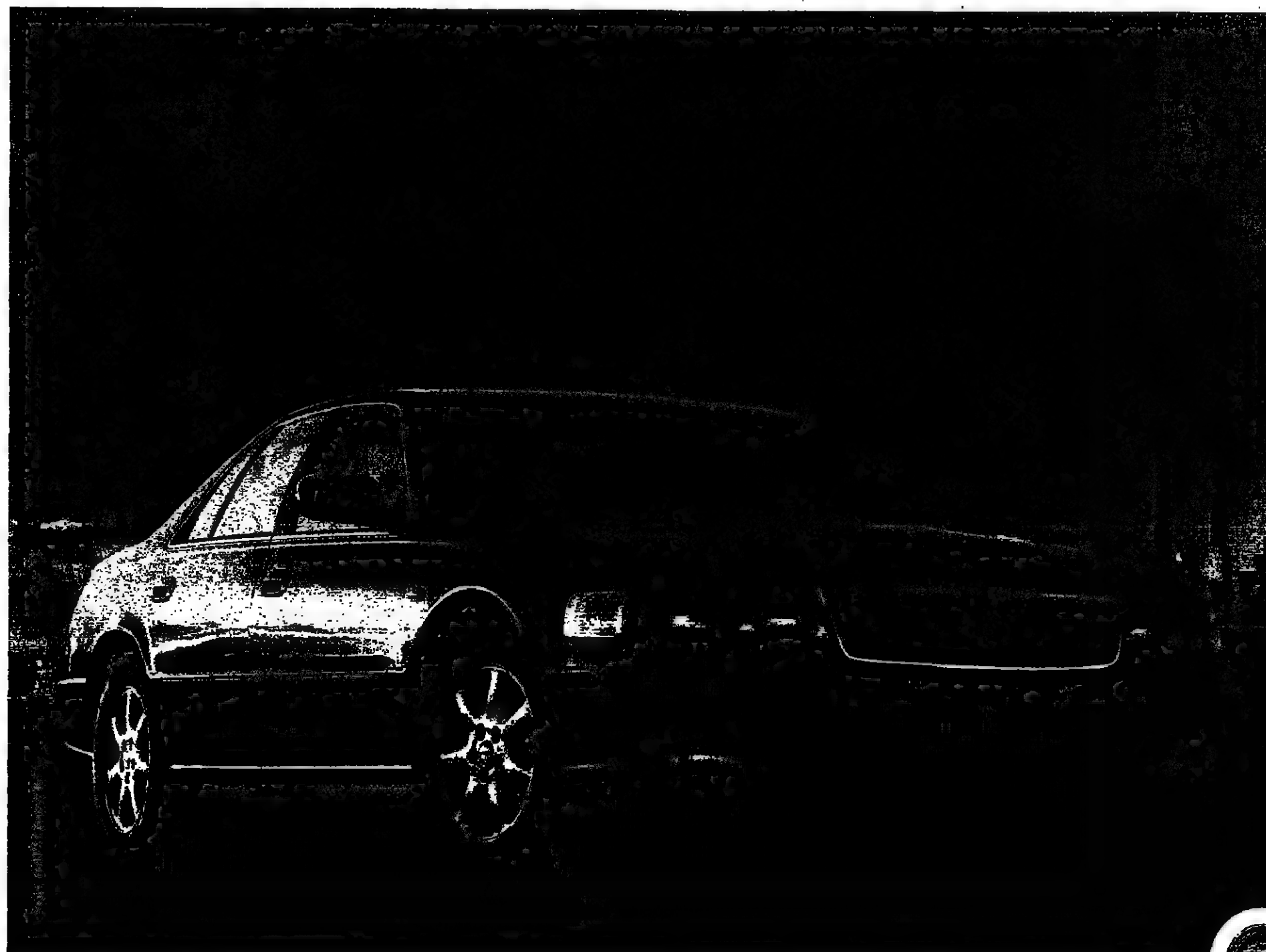
Rolls-Royce currently supplies its Boeing 757s with RB211-535 engines.

Shares in British Aerospace, one of the four Airbus partners, rose strongly earlier this week after speculation that British Airways will order up to 30 short-haul jets from Airbus in a £600 million deal.

British Airways does operate some Airbus planes but these were inherited from the takeover of British Caledonian, and BA has always chosen Boeing for its new fleet requirements.

Sources close to Airbus have tried to deflate the speculation that a contract victory is imminent. The forthcoming order is likely to be an issue at a British Airways board meeting today, but industry sources suggested it may still be too early for a final decision to be taken.

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## Early gains halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## MUSICALS

Lloyd Webber  
goes to  
Louisiana

PAGE 36

# THE TIMES

# ARTS

## POP

Dale Watson  
flies flag for  
real country

PAGE 37



What's the most revealing part of Sir Richard Eyre's dismayingly inconsequential report on London's opera and ballet scene? Probably the bit where the great man wearily launches a small sardonic dart at the ladies and gentlemen of the press who, despite the relentless grind of daily deadlines, were courteous enough to respond to his request for information during the eight months he took to pen his 149-page opus. "I have been diligently educated," writes Sir Richard, with the studied sarcasm of a supercilious Oxbridge don skimming through some jejune undergraduate essay, "by a score of journalists, prescribing solutions with the confident certainty of 19th-century statesmen."

I can't imagine whom he has in mind. But thank God that — among the conformists and careerists that seem to populate every tier of the supposedly free-thinking arts world — there are a few minor hacks who actually dare to "prescribe confident solutions". You certainly don't find confident solutions in Eyre's report, at least not beyond the marvellously childlike

## We are all tarnished by Covent Garden

belief that taxpayers "owe" the arts a lot more than the taxpayers themselves (the ones you meet in the pubs of Hendon, anyway) seem to think they do.

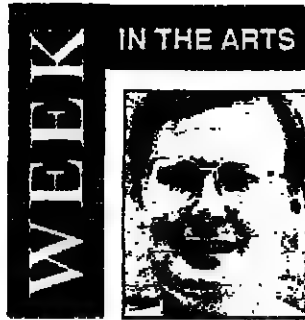
It's a great waste. I have never read an official arts report that is so elegantly written, so full of sane suggestions and well-argued observations about the running of theatres, and yet so illogical when approaching the central issues upon which all else stands or falls. Eyre admits that Covent Garden has failed spectacularly, yet recommends a "substantial" increase in public subsidy. He pleads for "clarity" in its chain of command, yet is too polite or too timid to lift the lid on the Sainsbury and Duffield figures, whose seven-figure donations buy such colossal behind-the-scenes leverage in the supposedly "public" Covent Garden.

That's a little like leaving the Christies out of a history of Glyndebourne. The big private donors virtually have the power of veto over

everything that happens at Covent Garden, but you would never have guessed so from this report.

Eyre wants the Arts Council's authority to be restored, yet appears oblivious to the irony that his own report, written at the direct behest of a government minister, undermines the Arts Council's authority still further. He calls for scrupulous financial controls at Covent Garden, yet seems to accept without question the old chestnut that, to stay in the "international league", the Royal Opera must continue to pay astronomical fees to guest singers who don't even deign to rehearse properly. He wants ENO to stay at the Coliseum, yet acknowledges that this crumbling old ruin needs tens of millions spent on it. "The lottery ought to pay," says Eyre, airily.

And so the double-think goes on. Eyre is no fool, and he is too honest to distort the evidence. Indeed, he paints a truly Breughel-like picture of London opera-house life as



RICHARD MORRISON

little short of a warzone, from which good productions occasionally contrive to escape. But something ideological in Eyre's decent, liberal, Islingtonian persona stops him from carrying his investigations to their logical conclusions. Instead of saying "this thing is so rotten that only wholesale revolution will change it", he tucks like a soft-touch social worker, forever ex-

cusing a hooligan's delinquency because of his deprived childhood (not enough subsidy) and broken home (it will all be better in the rebuilt theatre).

Useless. The miscreant will carry on as before. Already Eyre's report has been "warmly welcomed" by the opera houses themselves. The kiss of death! The Culture Secretary has promised a "month of consultation". That seals the tomb. Then everyone will go on holiday. By the autumn, Eyre will have been forgotten, the opera houses again in crisis. Back to square one.

There is, however, another reason for radical change. It pertains to the dread word "image". Eyre rightly perceives that Covent Garden in particular, opera in general, and the entire arts world by association, have a massive image problem. The public, and a large majority of journalists even on broadsheet papers, cannot understand why the arts, having received so much lottery money, are whinge-

ing for more. To claim that the lottery money "went on buildings not shows" is regarded as pathetic hair-splitting; after all, it was the arts world that insisted on that very rule.

To overhaul that image, to give the arts a "good press" after years of gloomy headlines, is going to be a massive job. But if Eyre's preferred plan of maintaining the status quo with greatly increased subsidy is adopted, the task will be impossible. Unless there is a genuine clean break with the past, the public will not be convinced that the wonderful new Covent Garden is any different from the bad old one.

I favoured Chris Smith's original plan, to bring ENO into Covent Garden. That would not have destroyed ENO, but it would have smashed the discredited old cliques at the Garden. That plan seems to have been rejected, but there are other ways to bring about radical change. And this

Government is particularly well-equipped to push for such a revolution. After all, didn't Labour reinvent itself to win mass popularity?

The battle to revolutionise Covent Garden will not be easy, especially after Eyre's timid report. But if it is lost, the consequences will be horrible not just for opera but for culture across the country. Within the next three years vast lottery-funded arts projects will be completed. The running costs at shiny new culture palaces such as the Tate Bankside Gallery will have to be covered by a huge rise in arts subsidy: we are talking here about the creation of thousands of new jobs in the subsidised arts sector. At present, such a rise is politically unthinkable. By the new millennium, it must be made palatable.

A revolutionised Royal Opera House, palpably free from the clutches of the snobby old guard, would go a long way towards restoring public confidence in the arts world. By turning his back on radical change, Eyre thinks that he is supporting the cause of the subsidised arts sector. He should have looked at the bigger picture, and thought a little more deeply.

## Found: a good home for Old Vic

David Mirvish tells Benedict Nightingale why the businessman in him accepted much less than the Old Vic was worth, just to please the theatre-lover in him

So the noblest of London playhouses, the place where Gielgud, Ashcroft, Olivier and Burton gave towering performances, will not dwindle into a lap-dancing centre. The Old Vic will not even become what its manager, Andrew Leigh, imagined when he first heard the more paranoid rumours about its future. "What," he asked an aide in a baffled way, "is a laptop dancing centre?"

Thanks to the generosity of Ed and David Mirvish, Canadian impresarios who might have made a profit on the sale of the dilapidated building they bought 16 years ago and spent a fortune restoring,

there will be no half-nude prancing, either on gentlemen's laps or on small computers in the Waterloo Road.

They are selling it at maybe half or two thirds of its true value to a British trust which, they hope, will give house-room to the best not-for-profit theatre on offer. They are even allowing Sally Greene and her co-trustees to postpone paying most of the £3.5 million cost for nearly two years.

We have learnt to be cynical about businessmen who talk in terms other than making money; but you cannot doubt David Mirvish's candour when he says he believes that as we pass through life we do not truly own anything. "Actually, the most valuable commodity we have is not property but time," he said as he

came from signing the sales contract on the Vic. "We've had our turn. We did the work we wanted, worked with the people we wanted, and had wonderful experiences. We're handing on the Vic in a better state than we found it. We feel lucky. That's not altruistic, that's selfish."

Although Mirvish will not discuss figures, it is thought that he and his father Ed, the only two shareholders in what is still a family business, lost a

total of about £2 million in what were artistically their most successful years: 1969-90, when Jonathan Miller brought us Eric Porter's *Lear*, Fiona Shaw's *Rosalind* and Alex Jennings in *Cornell's Illusion*, and in 1997, when Peter Hall and Dominic Dromgoole staged one of the most ambitious seasons of new plays and revivals London has ever seen.

"Peter found someone as passionate about theatre as himself," Mirvish says. "He approached me to do three shows originally, but when he said five I was happier than he was, and when he said ten I wasn't saying no, and when he said 13, I said yes."

The full rewards of that season have yet to be seen, although they would include the development of Victoria Hamilton, Nina in *Chekhov's Seagull*, into a potential star.

Among the fruits of the Miller era are putting Jennings and Shaw firmly on the theatrical map and encouraging designers as inventive as Richard Hudson, Richard Jones and the Quay Brothers. The Mirvish years have also brought Simon Callow's revival of *Carmen Jones*, Anthony Hopkins' superb performance in Schnitzler's *Lonely Road*, and the English Shakespeare Company's seven-play *Wars of the Roses*.

David Mirvish will be an honorary member of the new trust's board, but, since one of his reasons for selling the theatre is that he has a young family needing his attention back in Toronto, he will be visiting London a lot less frequently than at the two-month intervals he just about manages now. However, he hopes that there will be room for companies like the Theatre de Complicité and the Almeida, whose production of O'Neill's *Ice-cream Cometh* is at the Vic now.

Not that life will be easy for Stephen Daldry, artistic adviser to the new trust. The theatre still has to find the clear role it has been seeking since the National company moved out in 1976, and it still has to prove that the dingy Waterloo area can attract the crowds. But Mirvish thinks its best days may be yet to come: "I see how much people are paying for new homes. There's the coming of the Jubilee Line, the Globe, the Young Vic and the prospect of a footpath across the Thames. I'd say this is the only part of London with explosive growth potential. That's got to be good for the Old Vic."

The Peter Hall Company will be a likely resident, too. Mirvish would also like to see more co-operation with regional companies and with the theatre's mighty neighbour on the South Bank. It was partly in that hope that, instead of allowing developers to build offices or an hotel on the site, he sold the Vic's annex at a bargain-basement price to the National, which uses it for theatre workshops.

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"We're handing on the Vic in a better state than we found it. We feel lucky. That's not altruistic, that's selfish," says now-former owner David Mirvish

## Nation sings unto nation

The evening opened with Sir Jeremy Isaacs, on good rabble-rousing form, greeting the assembled crowd with a cry of "This space is yours!" And Sir William Chambers's Great Court of Somerset House is — as Marcus Binney reminded readers on Monday — one of the great European "spaces", a jewel of Neo-Classicism.

Throwing it open to the public is none the less welcome for being so many years overdue. What's more, future peering through plastic sheeting suggests that the promised restoration of the River Terrace is well under way. That will be a landmark.

State Opera on Wednesday evening marked Austria's accession to the Presidency of the European Union. Sir Jeremy's address was followed by messages from the ambassadors of all 15 member states, who were also receiving it, and a bilingual introduction that tactfully omitted to mention that the opera's failure in Vienna in 1805 was in part due to the audience being made up almost entirely of French forces of occupation.

We have moved on somewhat since then, and to witness Beethoven's great hymn to liberty, individual heroism

and the Brotherhood of Man in the company of untold numbers of our European partners was inevitably stirring.

Big-screen technology is constantly improving: here both the sound and the picture quality were amazingly good. This will obviously have to be the site for transmissions from the Royal Opera House when (it

reopens after its redevelopment).

Traffic noise was negligible, the skies were kind (feathery clouds turning to turquoise-tinted dusk) and the catering worked. Picnickers who chattered throughout, using Beethoven as mere background music — not, I think, a practice to be encouraged — were in a tiny minority.

The performance itself may not go down in the history books: the VSO could probably perform *Fidelio* in its sleep, and occasionally appeared to be doing so, but the orchestra and chorus under Pe-

ter Schneider were superb. There was even an authentic operatic drama: Gosta Winberg (Florestan) was replaced at short notice by Johan Botha, who may not look as if he has been on starvation rations for weeks, but sings extremely well.

The heroine, more than a match for Robert Hale's snarling cardboard villain, was Susan Anthony, a young American soprano rapidly making a name for herself in Europe. She looks good, and has the heroic scale of the role firmly within her grasp. A fine launch, then, for a glorious space whose potential is boundless.

RODNEY MILNES

## An eternity too far

The opportunity to hear a complex or difficult new work twice in the same programme is often welcome: details register the second time round. John Tavener's *Eternity's Sunrise*, given its premiere at St Andrew's Holborn, however, is neither complex nor difficult, and the benefits of a second hearing are less obvious. Indeed, for some of us, a single performance would have sufficed.

*Eternity's Sunrise*, inspired, apparently, by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was commissioned by the Academy of Ancient Music to celebrate its 25th anniversary. A setting of lines by William Blake, the piece reveals Tavener in characteristically beatific mode: floated, ecstatic vocal lines over soothing, slow-moving harmonies. A more active episode, "He who kisses the joy as it flies", sets flutes carol-



ling and trilling in combination with the voice. Those on the same spiritual plane will be enraptured by *Eternity's Sunrise*; others may be less patient with its sentimentality.

In any case, there must be doubts as to whether soprano vocalisation is well matched by sustained period strings. True, the pungent timbre of the latter alleviates the work's saccharine quality, though that may not have been the intention. In the performance that opened the concert, Patricia Rozario, standing alone on the altar steps, had some difficulties with intonation, but nei-

ther did the Academy strings, perched in the gallery at the west end, sound comfortable. The second performance, closing the concert, was more satisfactory.

Rozario also delivered Tavener's recent *Song of the Angel*, in not dissimilar vein, while *Sappho: Lyrical Fragments*, dating from 1980, made more effective use of a second, intertwining, soprano voice (Julia Gooding). The Academy take these three and other Tavener works straight into the recording studio for Harmonia Mundi, and no doubt the runaway success of the ensuing disc will prove the eccentricity of my own reaction.

The Tavener pieces were alternated with items of Purcell, sung with impeccable style by Gooding, accompanied by the Academy, playing with real distinction these days under its new leadership. Paul Goodwin was nominally in charge this time, though Andrew Manze, the concert master, offered dynamic co-direction from the front desk. The partnership resulted in a superbly vibrant account of music from *The Fairy Queen* and *Dido and Aeneas*, with Gooding contributing finely nuanced soprano solos culminating in a moving Lament.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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POP ALBUMS

Beasties and Prince

# How Buddha tamed the raging beast

BEASTIE BOYS

*Hello Nasty*  
(Grand Royal/Capitol 7343 495723) £15.99

TO THINK that after all the serpentine twists in the plot the most conspicuously fashionable guardians of the hip-hop flame are once again Run DMC and the Beastie Boys. Both of these 1980s originators have spent long years in the wilderness, and in the case of the Beastie Boys produced some of their best work while nobody was paying attention, most notably the 1989 masterpiece *Paul's Boutique*.

Unfortunately, *Hello Nasty* is not nearly as good as that, mainly because the Beastie Boys have started to take themselves seriously. Musically, they have always been sophisticated operators, and *Hello Nasty* explores a diversity of stylish avenues, from the mildly sinister triphop mantras of *Flowin' Prose* to the reggaedub chant of *Dedication*, and even a superlative Latino-rock groove called *Song for Junior*.

But although they remain supremely adroit at battling voices and ideas around the mix, the album lacks the rude vitality and overriding sense of the absurd that has powered their creative engine in the past. Obviously, now that Adam Yauch is a Buddhist and the band are committed to bettering themselves and the world, nobody is expecting them still to be fighting for their right to party. But for all the hustle and bustle of *Hello Nasty*, without that inspirational touch of brat power they have lost their spark.

**NEW POWER GENERATION**  
*New Power Soul*  
(NPG/RCA 74321 60598) £13.49

A NEW Prince album in all but name, *New Power Soul* is yet another sturdy but unexceptional piece of work by the

NEW POP ALBUMS

artist who seems to have turned into the new George Clinton. Like Clinton, who spent the 1970s and 1980s bombarding the marketplace with albums under various guises (Parliament, Funkadelic), Prince has flouted the laws of supply and demand to the point where only diehards with deep pockets will be able to muster much enthusiasm for this latest offering.

Also like Clinton, Prince has settled into a heavy-duty, soul-funk routine that is, by now, as familiar as it is accomplished. Opening with the hefty, horn-driven groove of the title track, *New Power Soul* offers a string of slickly executed numbers based on a theme that is little short of self-parody: *Mad Sex, Push It Up, Shoo-Be-Doo* and so forth.

"I got the butter for your muffin," the priapic pop star croons on *Come On*, which, along with a smoochy ballad called *The One*, actually turns out to be a somewhat implausible exhortation to sexual fidelity. Enough already.

**ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT**  
*RFTC*  
(Elemental ELM50) £14.99

THE San Diego six-piece Rocket from the Crypt marry the aesthetics of a soul revue to the raucous energy of hardcore rock 'n' roll on *RFTC*, the follow-up to their breakthrough 1996 album *Scream, Dracula, Scream!*. As before, the new album comprises a gloriously over-loaded barrage of high-energy songs, but this time with a more accessible touch.

**DAVID SINCLAIR**

**TOP TEN ALBUMS**

1 (1) *Talk on Corners*.....Corrs (Atlantic)

2 (5) *Five*.....Sade (Epic)

3 (2) *Blue*.....Simply Red (East West)

4 (6) *The Good Will Out*.....Embrace (Hut)

5 (7) *Postcards From Heaven*.....Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)

6 (4) *Life Thru a Lens*.....Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)

7 (13) *Where We Belong*.....Boyzone (Polydor)

8 (8) *Urban Hymns*.....The Verve (Hut)

9 (10) *Left of the Middle*.....Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)

10 (16) *International Velvet*.....Catatonia (Blanco Y Negro)

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The most obvious reference point remains Graham Parker and the Rumour, thanks in part to the contributions of the group's industrious two-man horn section, but mostly because of the spicetastic vocal snarl of Speedo, a singer who sounds constantly at the end of his tether, and obviously rather relishing it.

There are one or two romantic lyrics, and even a tentative shot at a ballad called *Let's Get Busy*. But the RFTC manifesto is more typically spelt out on *You Gotta Move*, a number propelled by a delirious cannonade of stabbing horn riffs and pulverising tom-tom syncopations: "Too much posing on the dancefloor/Time to make the ground shake."

**LUCINDA WILLIAMS**  
*Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*  
(Mercury 558 338) £15.99

LOUISIANA-BORN singer and songwriter Lucinda Williams is best known as the writer of Mary Chapin Carter's Grammy award-winning hit, *Passionate Kisses*, but she has quietly built up a small but perfectly formed catalogue of albums over a period of 20 years or so, and now arrives at a point where her latest collection, *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*, supplies the missing link between Sheryl Crow and Neil Young.

Aided on some tracks by Steve Earle, and giving full rein to the impeccable bluesy riffing of her guitarist, the wonderfully named Gurf Morib, Williams cloaks her often fragile emotions in a lazy Southern drawl, perfectly inhabiting songs with catchy choruses and dark corners.

**DAVID SINCLAIR**

## ARTS

POP OPINION

Glastonbury squelch

### Legacy for the living

THELONIOUS MONK

*Monk Alone*

(Columbia/Legacy C2K 65495)

■ CHARLES MINGUS

*The Complete 1959 Columbia Recordings*

(Columbia/Legacy C3K 65145)

ALTHOUGH the ease with which such compilations can apparently be issued after their subjects' deaths prompts several pertinent questions about major record companies' commitment to living jazz artists' work, the Columbia Legacy series is undeniably a model of its type. It orders its material sensibly, and presents it respectfully, with informative notes and superb session photographs.

The Monk double-CD collects all the pianist's solo Columbia recordings between 1962 and 1968 — 14 of its 37 tracks previously unreleased — and includes all but one of his most celebrated albums, *Solo Monk*. The material is mostly standards, played in Monk's familiar, choppy, clanging style, firmly grounded in the stride tradition but liberally embellished with the startling dissonance and dy-

JAZZ ALBUMS

namic and textural variety that made him such an influential figure in bop and post-bop jazz. Highlights include intelligently quirky versions of both the unlikely (*Just a Gigolo*) and the more familiar (*Body and Soul*, *These Foolish Things*), but whether he is exploring every cranny of such fare or tripping eccentrically through his own classics (*Round Midnight*, *Ask Me Now*), Monk demonstrates throughout why he is still revered as one of the greatest individualists in jazz.

The Mingus 3-CD set comprises 1959's classic *Ah Um*, almost a "greatest hits" album, containing *Better Git It in Your Soul*, *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat* and *Fables of Faubus*; and *Mingus Dynasty* from the same year, another masterpiece of controlled rambunctiousness interpreted by one of the bassist's best bands (the reed section alone contains Benny Golson, Booker Ervin, John Handy and Jerome Richardson). With the third CD containing fascinating outtake material, this is another indispensable treat for Mingus fans to add to the superb Rhino Atlantic collection issued last year.

CHRIS PARKER



The gang's all here: former pop brats the Beastie Boys would rather save the world than fight for the right to party

## A mission to see off the Nashville hats

While the British music industry braces itself for a period of belt-tightening, things could not be going better in Nashville, the home of country music. Or so it would seem.

Led by the irrepressible Garth Brooks, a phalanx of country stars, including Shania Twain, Brooks & Dunn and LeAnn Rimes, has taken over the charts, endowing country music with the glossy production values, theatrical stage shows and big-grossing sales figures of mainstream pop. But in reality, the Nashville establishment is cruising, *Titanic*-like, towards catastrophe.

At least, that is the view of Dale Watson, the 35-year-old country singer and guitarist from Austin, Texas, who speaks with a fundamentalist fervour on the ills of the current situation.

"It's all got way too big," he says. "People say Garth Brooks has brought a wider audience for country music, but that wider audience is not going to be there in five years. They're going to be on to the next fad. Financially, the bottom has got to fall out of country music."

According to Watson, Nashville has strayed too far from its roots and lost sight of what made country music great in the first place, and "real" country artists are no longer getting a look-in.

This month, a Channel 4 series called *Naked Nashville* lifts the lid on a country music establishment that has "lost its heart and soul" and become "a huge karaoke machine". The second of the three-part series is subtitled *My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys* and contrasts Watson's lonely, dogged progress round the honky-tonks and beer joints of America's highways and byways with the massive promo-

### Country music needs a saviour. David Sinclair thinks it might be Dale Watson

tional campaign to launch a new Nashville major-label signing called Keith Harling. While a bemused Harling is hanging about on video shoots in the company of various "advisers", Watson is seen effecting some roadside repairs on his Chevy pickup truck. As Harling frets for hours in a recording studio, Watson is playing his heart out in some dusty honky-tonk bar. And although it is Harling who will be the industry's next big star, it is plainly Watson who is the real deal.

Country music is not so much a career choice as a way of life for Watson, a man who wears a lot more than his heart on his sleeve. The tattoos on his right arm are dedicated

to Texas, while those on his left are on the theme of his family. He has a picture of his father, the country singer Don Watson (1934-91), etched on his shoulder and beneath it a musical stave picking out a few notes from his father's best-known song, *Poor Baby*.

Blessed with a burnished voice that echoes such all-time greats as Merle Haggard and Bob Wills, Watson adheres to the first principles of country music, but writes and plays his own songs, and he bristles at the suggestion that he is a throwback. "I do stuff in an old style, but that don't mean I've been left behind," he says.

His fourth album, *The Truckin' Sessions*, is an affectionate and utterly genuine tribute to those noble citizens in the American truck-driving profession, suffused with an endearing sense of energy, honesty and warmth.

While Watson would much rather stick to expressing such plain sentiments, he has become, however reluctantly, a man with a mission. It is Nashville's ills, in which he sings of being "too country now for country, just like Johnny Cash", that has become his signature song and which embodies everything that Watson is about.

"I'm a by-product of what Nashville's become," he says ruefully. "It's as if you've got a factory that's making a product and I'm one of the materials in the process that ends up going through a wastepipe and out into the river. What they've created has spawned me. The passion that I have for my music grows stronger every time I hear one of those fake-country, Garth Brooks-type songs on the radio."

● *Naked Nashville* begins on July 11 on Channel 4 at 8pm

● *The Truckin' Sessions* is released by Continental Song City/CRS Records

**Dale Watson: torch-bearer for real country music**

**CAITLIN MORAN**

Glastonbury means torrents, trench foot and ruined tents. And, yes, we'll all be back for more

## Soaked to the skin, thrilled to the bone

The worst conditions for a British festival on record were all right until you looked down. Up and straight ahead, it was still the Land of Green Ginger: a mythic, self-contained town which, every midsummer solstice, births itself and then eats itself within three days, leaving only crumbs and empty cans of Kestrel. Puppet-stalls, still-walkers, hog-roasts and bands were all still in place, same as every year.

But when you looked down, oh man — the feet just broke your heart. Rotting, oozing trainers shored up with twine-bound bin-bags. Doc Martens leaking from every lace-hole. Compared with the pathos of the feet, the faces were blankly unreadable. Little 15-year-old kids down from Manchester and Liverpool, shoulders skinny chicken-wings under hooded tops, trying to keep their ciggies alight with cupped hands. And the Placebo and Suede fans! Those Britpop semi-goths with their brave eyeliner and hopeful glitter — all rubble and grey ruin across their cheeks. I watched one Cure acolyte insisting on his regular routine, and trying to use his hairspray in the rain. As Elton pushed it up, God gently but insistently put it down again. I don't think I've seen anything as poignant since that clip from *Beetle's About* where a cat's trying to be all Cat Cool and falls down the back of the telly, paws helicoptering.

In these conditions, when the Vale of Avalon has turned into a stew of mud and frozen limbs, bands are the brandy keg on a St Bernard dog. Twenty minutes of frenetic bouncing to *Parlife*, Song 2

and *End of a Century*, followed by an hour's gyrations in the dance tent with the Chemical Brothers and the Aloof, and the small oceans of filth in your pockets, nose and hair were at least warmed small oceans of filth.

Catatonia's Cerys Matthews — resplendent in platinum-album status and gold dress — had an even better solution. "Imagine you're all somewhere hot, like Sri Lanka," she insisted on Friday night, before sticking each of Catatonia's hits in the back of the net with aplomb. Bands playing in the middle of a cauldron of mud don't muck about with B-sides, new songs and acid-dub-funk workouts: the threat of being pelted, coupled with a tremendous desire to get off the dripping stage as soon as possible, mean it's a jam-free hit rumpus all the way.

On Saturday, when half the tents were flattened and face-down in pools of filth a foot deep, the weekend-only hippies with mobile phones decided to jack it in. They had marquee-sized tents, palaces in a waterlogged paddock strewn with abandoned sleeping bags, Gaz stoves, and bloated toilet rolls. Drinking John Miller (89p a can), they torched their tents as the soaked and homeless Birmingham kids looked on.

Down in the valley, on the Other Stage, Six by Seven were dealing in similarly impotent fury. Half an hour late as roadies swept the rain from the stage, lead singer Chris Olley was met with a hail of abuse.

"F--- off," he snapped at his target audience. Mud studded the air. Half a song later, the mud stopped. Glastonbury

victories are always sweeter and fiercer than any other.

In between bands on the Pyramid Stage, the organisers kept the audience happy by broadcasting crowd shots on the big screen. Those homeless, soaked kids danced like loons in order to be filmed: a group of 14-year-old lads

started a mud slide, the pro-wave breaking in their smiling mouths as they waved to themselves up on the screen.

Marshall McLuhan was wrong — television isn't the opiate of the masses. This is stronger stuff — cocaine, maybe. Speedballs.

On Sunday, Michael Eavis

— whose garden it is that we romp in — took a tour of the site. I've never seen a man more upset — the gutted tents and shivering kids causing him to tug his beard and wince. What Eavis forgot in his sympathy, however, is that every one of his guests will be back for more next year.

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# Please don't shoot the messenger

**Damian Whitworth on frontline reporters who had to take the flak on the battlefields of France 98**

David Barry misses a penalty and the World Cup is over for England. A nation mourns. Journalists who have spent the past three weeks in France heave sighs of relief. But that is not to say that any of us hate football.

On Tuesday night I cheered as loud as anyone when Michael Owen scored, and while England battled to stay in the competition I, and fellow reporters, were caught up in the action and eager for the team to triumph.

But as soon as that penalty was missed, while fans in the stadium and at home were in despair, we wrestled with mixed emotions. Disappointed for the team, we were guiltily pleased for ourselves and our wellbeing.

Victory would have meant a return to Marseille and the bottle throwers and knife-trick specialists who comprise that city's welcoming committee. But the danger of being caught up in trouble between rival fans was only one half of the problem that soured the World Cup for journalists. The other was that journalists became a specific target. Those out to get us were England fans.

There was a hint of what was to come before England's first game in Marseille when, at the height of the trouble in the Old Port, a well-dressed Englishwoman who had been standing watching the proceedings started screaming at a group of reporters and photographers: "Do you hate football? You think this more important than the football, don't you?" I would have pointed out to her that it was worth telling our readers that English and Tunisian fans were involved in a full-

scale riot, but a horde of people came stampeding towards us and we were forced to flee.

By the time the Marseille rioting had been fully reported and we reached Toulouse, drunken fans had added a new song to their repertoire, a chant of "Stand up if you hate the press" repeated ad nauseam and occasionally varied to "Sit down if you hate the press". During a scuffle between fans and police, a Press Association reporter was overheard filing copy on his mobile phone, was beaten up and suffered a broken collarbone. Another reporter was hit over the head as fans lashed out at photographers and TV cameramen.

By the Lens match, reporters avoided using notebooks and mobile phones in public and photographers got their cameras out only when strictly necessary. The verbal abuse from fans was constant. I encountered many tattooed creatures, glassy-eyed with booze, yelling that we were "all scum".

One group of reporters who had become familiar to the fans was singled out for a shower of bottles. In St-Etienne, a female colleague who had tucked herself away at the back of a restaurant to write her copy tried to avoid the hard stares she received from a group of England fans, but was followed into the lavatory by one of them. Fortunately she had good enough French to convince him that she was not English so he grunted and shuffled off.

The antipathy of the hardcore troublemakers was understandable, as their pictures were appearing in the papers and on television and they were being identified by the police. But what was disturbing was that much of



Sign language: English fans hurled constant abuse at reporters and photographers in France

the abuse came from those who would never regard themselves as hooligans, such as the woman in Marseille. One man said he was a chartered accountant before launching into a tirade against the press.

They believed that the press was inflaming the situation by its presence, and by exaggerating what happened. Admittedly, there was a moment in St-Etienne when there were so many camera crews running around in search of trouble that the police got over-excited and started waving their truncheons at cameras. But the fact that when trouble flared in

Ostend there were hardly any journalists present — and no papers had predicted violence there — suggests that the hooligans did not need us to stir them up. As for exaggeration, the

events needed none. Indeed, after Marseille's most papers condensed their accounts of trouble. We reported "minor skirmishes", but in reality they were horrible and simmered for hours.

The press was criticised for "only writing about the bad stuff". But the papers went out of their way to find good stories. We were also fair in our reporting of the trouble. Not all England fans were involved, but it was more than a handful.

A lot of those people who would never dream of being classed as hooligans drank all day and hung around on the fringes of the mob and shouted. Could the fact that reporters were witnessing them enjoying themselves in such an antisocial way have had something to do with their behaviour towards us? I do not know a

single journalist in France who does not love football. We all went out full of anticipation at the joys ahead. We ended up vowing that if we ever covered a similar competition we would come with the burly bodyguards who accompanied Sky television reporters everywhere.

Tomorrow I am going to see the quarter-final between Germany and Croatia in Lyons. When friends acquired the tickets, we hoped the match would involve England, which it would have done if they had won their group and then succeeded against Croatia. But the depressing truth is that I am looking forward to the game because England are not involved and I can relax, off-duty, and watch the football without worrying about becoming another injury statistic.

# Press freedom in UK comes of age

**Harold Evans has high hopes for Britain, says Raymond Snoddy**

Harold Evans, the former Editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* who once famously denounced Britain's "half-free press" and lauded the American media has changed his tune.

The editor who campaigned on behalf of victims of the thalidomide drug in the mid-Sixties now believes that relief is in sight for the British press while the American media is suffering a catastrophic decline in standards. "In the past the American press served as an example to follow," Evans said in a lecture at Durham University on Wednesday. "Now it serves as a warning that freedom and a free flow of information may be a mixed blessing."

A Durham graduate and former Editor of *The Northern Echo*, he was in the city to receive an honorary doctorate and to give a lecture to inaugurate the Research Institute for the Study of Change in the university's Business School.

He argued that the World Wide Web already made nonsense of petty national restrictions on the flow of information. Referring to the Freedom of Information Act and the European Convention on Human Rights, he said: "If incipient reforms take shape, the British press will no longer be half-free."

"It will enjoy the kind of freedom the American press has — just at the time when the Web is coming into its own as a supplier and distributor of information. What wondrous things might be accomplished."

But as the richest and freest press in the world, was the American press still demonstrating the virtue of freedom? "The answer, regrettably, is no. Not any longer," said Evans, who lives in the US and recently joined the Zuckerman organisation, publisher of the *New York Daily News*.

He believes that, apart from exceptions such as the *New York Times* and a number of intellectual magazines, much of the American media is now typified by "a con-

sion of news, entertainment, fact and fiction, aggravated by round-the-clock television news programmes that add little that is new but whip emotions and base whole programmes on tendentious hypotheticals. "There was a 'celebrity mania' so that intrusions into privacy, once rare, and casual defamation, were now commonplace."

Everyone in America now believed some version of the story that President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky were seen by someone in the White House in a compromising position, he said, yet the only "evidence" was third-hand gossip.

The gatekeepers of the American press, Evans said, were asleep. Within days recently the *New Republic* admitted that at least 23 of 41 articles written by one of its brightest writers were pure invention and at *The Boston Globe* a columnist admitted making up four columns about everyday life. There was now a whole literature of criticism created by senior American journalists using words such as malicious, negative, self-serving, mean, shameless, sanctimonious, belligerent, aggressive, disingenuous and plain nasty.

Osborn Elliott, a pioneering editor of *Newsweek* in the Watergate and Vietnam years, deplored the press as "journalism with a sneer", with little sense that any public policy was worth pursuing.

Evans said there had been an explosion in news outlets on radio, television and the press without an explosion of talent to match. "Public morals have been degraded by an endless peepshow," he added, and there seemed to be no sign of hitting bottom.

"The question is, can the [British] press rise to the occasion?" he said. "Freedom is not enough. There has to be a moral vision. Can it go down a different path from America in the pursuit of personality and the frenzy of competition?"

**'The US media is a mix of news, fact and fiction'**

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# 'I've always had a longing for death'

Lucy Gannon was neglected as a child and beaten as a young wife, but the turbulent years that caused her so much pain provided the inspiration and the motivation for the television scripts that have made her name and fortune. **Moira Petty reports**

**D**eath and alienation are recurring motifs in the life of the writer Lucy Gannon. A crushing sense of never belonging is the abiding emotional memory of her shattered childhood and early adult life, and her conversation is spiked with the phrase: "I was there on sufferance."

Her mother died of cancer when she was six and Gannon was fostered by a cruel uncle and aunt. "The parish priest told me I was a charity case and it was good of them to look after me and I'd better be grateful. I always felt there was no place in the world for me."

While she is still caught in the emotional aftermath of her past, she dissects it greedily for motive and cause, and applies the same examination of life's turbulent junctures to her television writing. *Soldier Soldier*, *Peak Practice*, *Bramwell*, *Trip Trap*, *A Small Dancer*, *Tender Loving Care* and *Beyond Reason* deal largely or wholly with brutality, trauma and loss.

In the 12 years she has been writing, her prolific output and popularity with viewers has made her name and her fortune. It is only a decade since she moved from a council estate to a 17th-century country house and, in so far as she feels able to be part of any group, she still regards herself as working-class. "Whatever society I've been in, I've not been part of it," she says.

Gannon delights in cutting through middle-class psychobabble. When she was grieving for her husband George, who died of a heart attack six years ago, she was encouraged to see a counsellor. "Ten minutes into the session, I thought, 'I could write this scene better'. I was asked if I felt abandoned. I said 'Of course not. I am not ten years old'."

At 49, she cuts a robust figure, with opinions to match. She isn't inclined to marry again — "and, anyway, I don't think anyone would have me". Could her poor self-image be rooted in her childhood? "Look, matey," she barks jovially, "it's got nothing to do with my childhood. It's got to do with being ugly."

Her latest film for TV, *The Gift*, is a searing account of a woman (Amanda Burton) who discovers she has a fast-spreading metastatic bone cancer, and takes steps to ensure that her young daughter's memories will not be of a severely debilitated mother. She was initially asked to write a piece on euthanasia "but I'm very against it, so this is my slant on it". What she opposes is legal euthanasia. But death for the individual is, she says, "their undeniable right".

Gannon speaks with the certainty of someone who has been there. When she was 17 and in mental torment, she made a serious suicide attempt after being jilted by her fiancé shortly before their wedding. "I hadn't slept with him, being a good Catholic girl, but it felt like the final rejection. My mother had gone, now my boyfriend had rejected me."

A doctor prescribed antidepressants and other drugs for Gannon, then a military policewoman. She stacked them, and then locked herself in her room in barracks and took the lot.

"I didn't regret it for a moment. I felt there was nothing for me and that my father and stepmother would be better off without me. I had mates you could have a laugh with, but I had so many dark secrets in my life that I couldn't get close to them."

As it happened it was a friend who found her and raised the alarm. "When I came round I was in a terrible depression which lasted for ages and ages."

She eventually went back on duty but was judged to be temperamentally unsuited for her job and took up nursing instead. An army psychiatrist concluded that the suicide attempt was a reaction to her childhood and Gannon concurs. "I wanted to go home to Mum," she says.

Her mother, Mary, died in 1954, aged 47. Gannon has never come to terms with the devastation wreaked by her loss and has dedicated *The Gift* to her. The youngest in the family, Gannon was told little about her mother's breast cancer, which spread to her brain. "Unlike the chattering classes, we didn't sit and talk things out."

Her limited memories of her mother are bound up with her illness. "I was aware of her suffering. She was in bed a long time. Her sight went. One day I went into her room wearing a special dress. Mum thought she could see me and said 'It's a blue dress'. I was about to blurt out that it wasn't when my aunt nudged me."

A few years ago Gannon admitted to her father that she could not remember much of her mother. He made up a scrapbook of photos and memorabilia. "It's still quite painful to look at them, but wonderful. There are half-a-dozen home snaps and a studio portrait. I get the same feeling when I look at them as I did when I gazed into the eyes of my newborn daughter."

**A**fter her mother's death, Gannon was left with her Lancashire relatives until her father set up home with his second wife, Norah, to whom he is still devoted. The years with her aunt and uncle were so terrible that Gannon has never talked about them and won't while her father, now in his nineties, is alive. "A few years ago my stepmother asked if so-and-so had happened and I said yes. She said that my father had been so worried that that was the case. There was a lot of cruelty. I was neglected and it was a hellish time."

"My stay with my relatives left me unschooled, unable to talk properly to people and without table manners. I didn't have clothes or shoes that fitted me. I played out in the streets and got scruffy and was left to wander. I had to fend for myself."

She found it difficult to settle into the new family that her father, a

Civil Service clerk, created in Wiltshire. "A half brother, Anthony, was born, but at six weeks he died of cystic fibrosis. It was very difficult for my stepmother. She lost her own baby and had this difficult 11-year-old to bring up."

Throughout her life, Gannon has tried to create the family atmosphere she missed. After her suicide attempt she went on to marry at 19. Her husband was a violent man who became the role model for the wifebeater in *Trip Trap*.

"I was desperate for a home of my own but he was a tortured man and there was a high level of violence. I stuck it out for two years. Then, on about my tenth visit to my GP, she said the violence was out of his control and the next time I could

## the media interview

be dead — he had pushed me down the stairs and my nose and ribs were broken. I left the next day."

When she was 24, she met George, 14 years her senior. "I was shaky after my first marriage but George helped me understand it. I desperately wanted a child. When I found out I was pregnant I was both elated and depressed — I didn't think I knew how to be a

mother." Her daughter Louise is now 20 and training to be a coastal skipper. Gannon doesn't share her sporny interests. "Bugger that. My favourite sport is opening a bottle of wine," she says.

George's heart attack in 1992 happened while he was unpacking after a family holiday. Louise, then 14, was with him. "It helped that we had been so happy. But when I went to register his death, I was handed a single-parent family leaflet and I was shattered."

Gannon began writing in 1987 hoping to win a £2,000 prize in a play-writing competition. "We were totally broke," she says. "I spent some of my winnings on a carpet."

As soon as I got to page two of my play for the competition I knew

that that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Appointed an MBE in the 1997 New Year's Honours List, she has more than made up for her late start. She is working on two projects for the BBC and has signed a film deal.

She is enjoying single life so much that "even if anyone was foolish enough to look at me, I wouldn't marry. I love my freedom. I love fella, but it doesn't mean that I have to fall into bed with them. I do miss the sexual side of my marriage. After George died I'd have very vivid dreams and wake up thinking he was there."

Recently she moved into a former cottage hospital built in 1630 in the village of Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

She has seen the records of patients who died there and the former mortuary stands in the garden. "I walk around this house with a big smile on my face. I'm somewhere I belong. I would say I am a happy person now. I've always had a longing for death and I want to die here when the time comes."

"Amanda Burton rang the other day when I was out. She asked how I was. My PA said: 'She's as happy as a sandboy. She wants her friends to lay her out in her mortuary when she dies. We're not doing it.' Amanda, who of course also plays the pathologist in *Silent Witness*, replied: 'Don't worry, I'll come up and do it for you.'"

● The Gift will be transmitted on BBC1 at 9pm on Sunday

ADRIAN SPERRATT



At 49, Lucy Gannon cuts a robust figure, with opinions to match. She is disinclined to get married again — "and, anyway, I don't think anyone would have me"

## Mail's pot shot at Express

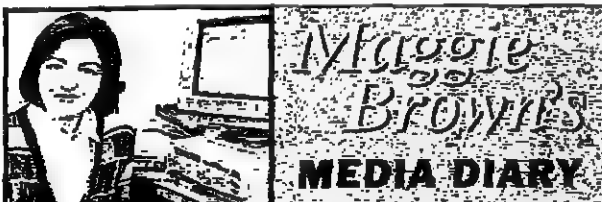
THE Daily Mail's managing editor Lawrence Sear has been writing sneaky letters to Express regulars, asking whether they are feeling "lost and exasperated by Rosie Boycott's revamp". "Forgive me for writing to you out of the blue," he gushes. "But I wondered whether you were entirely happy with the many recent changes made to your paper. You may be feeling uneasy about the direction taken by the paper's new editor, a feminist who on her previous newspaper campaigned for the legalisation of cannabis."

He is offering a free weekend trial of the Mail and a cut-price, six-week trial of the paper "which champions family values". Alas, he sent a letter to a Mrs Rose Blackhurst, of Barrow-in-Furness, whose son, Chris, just happens to be deputy editor of The Express.

Mrs Blackhurst's husband Donald, a retired teacher, says he and his wife regularly fill in the household spending circulars that come through their door, and tick the boxes asking which newspapers they take. They have bought The Express for years and The Independent from where Blackhurst junior and Boycott hail.

"Quite frankly, we thought it very patronising and in poor taste. But we did take up the free weekend offer, since it was costing them."

MEANWHILE Sunday Business, the Barclay brothers' pink paper, is busily



mailing 5,000 executives at the main FTSE companies offering them a free supply for 52 weeks. It's a sign that sales since the February launch have been slow to grow. Bert Hardy, the chief executive, says he is building a controlled circulation list for advertisers. "We will always be a niche product."

BBC foreign bureaux face a "short sharp shock". No one covering a story may spend more than £100 unless authorised. An overspend of £50,000 in just ten weeks is apparently taking BBC World News into "uncharted territory". The problem, explains a memo, is that big foreign stories — the World Cup, Clinton in China — just keep on happening, and when they do, they have to be covered for lots more BBC outlets. You get the impression that the BBC would love it if troublesome foreign news never happened.

HAS The Guardian claimed another victim? Andy Allan, Carlton Television director of programmes, is leaving aged 55. It sounds cordial on the press release but the paper's exposure of dicey standards in

Carlton's documentary department (particularly relating to The Connection, about Colombian drugs smuggling) hasn't helped. I also hear that the ITV Network Centre, which controls hundreds of millions of pounds, has become disillusioned with some Carlton programming: so the department is bound to be remodelled. The centre recently ordered an entire Carlton series to be re-edited. And that landed Carlton with a big bill.

I DROPPED in on Talk Radio, the national radio station currently under auction. Paul Robinson, the chief executive, has attracted two media groups, Lord Hollick's United News and Media and The Guardian Media Group, to back his management buyout. He is trying to hold off his rival Kelvin MacKenzie's bid (backed by News International, owner of The Times). Both sides are pondering whether to raise their offers. Here's an insight into how Lord Hollick does business. Robinson approached him. Hollick took personal control, closing the deal to take the maximum permitted 20 per cent stake within four

days... and he signed the agreement at Lord's, while watching the Test match.

Whoever wins — Radio 5 Live is the target. By broadcasting the World Cup, Talk Radio has seen its advertising shoot up by 240 per cent on a year ago.

As a fan of Eldorado, the BBC's doomed soap opera, I learnt a lesson: never assume audiences share your taste. Yet since Radio 4's big relaunch in April I'm listening less, and missing regular features such as the Tuesday morning phone-in and Feedback on Friday mornings. Now I hear that the first research published in Audience will bear out my experience. Radio 4 has held up comparatively well but listening by regulars is down by about half an hour a week. And new ones haven't joined the network. The verdict: at best a semi-success.

COVER magazine contains a selection of the supposedly best articles published every month. So why do men writers outnumber women by 15:1 in the latest issue? We're talking Quentin Letts, Charles Laurence and Jonathan Glancey while only a few female hotshots such as the New York-based Joanna Coles (who is joining The Times from The Guardian) ever make it. The Editor, Danny Danziger, assures me: "It's not conscious. Women are great interviewers. But now you mention it, we'll have a look."

## A spot of soccer woe

The tension between ITV and leading media buying agencies over the way the latter have bought advertising space during the World Cup came to a head this week over the England v Argentina match.

ITV is ecstatic about the viewing figures for the game — with good reason. At its peak it reached 26 million viewers, with the audience averaging 23 million across the game. It is ITV's highest rating, and the third-best UK figure of all time. Even this doesn't take into account people who were watching in groups in pubs.

But, despite a tournament that has seen audiences far exceed broadcasters' expectations, the World Cup has not quite delivered the advertising bonanza that ITV expected.

This is, of course, all relative. ITV spent £1.8 million on the World Cup, and Carlton alone took an estimated £2.2 million in advertising revenue just for the England v Romania game.

Yet we have just experienced the extraordinary phenomenon of deflation in the TV airtime marketplace for the month of June. The cost of airtime for the number of viewers reached has actually turned out to be cheaper than at the same time last year. All this at a period when advertisers' constant lament is TV airtime inflation.

Here's how it happened: ITV announced its World Cup plans last September. Mindful of the success of Euro 96, it

## Advertisers missed out on bumper World Cup audiences, says Stefano Hatfield

pitched high. Media buying agencies thought that ITV was overtyping the tournament, and muttered about Carlton trying to charge £250,000 for 30 seconds in an England game. Scared media buyers, anxious not to blow too much of their clients' spend at once, brought the money forward to buy airtime in May. Too many of them did so, resulting in inflation in that month — the kind of thing the buyers were hoping to avoid in June. The crucial difference being that May didn't have the World Cup's huge audiences, particularly for advertisers trying to reach affluent young men.

So ITV let it be known that there were bargains to be had.

TV media buying and selling industry works.

In short, advertisers' agencies commit their media buying money in advance of airdate, during the annual rounds of negotiation. They commit to a time period — and calculate the cost by lumping together their clients' spends to obtain volume discount.

It's difficult and bureaucratic to take advantage of short-term opportunities in this framework. In fact, ITV has accused buyers of being "lazy", being obsessed with buying discount against an average price, and looking to cover themselves having spent all their clients' money in May.

In recent years ITV has given incentives to buyers for early booking and penalised them for late booking. But the question is whether buyers should have predicted how special the World Cup would be. It's hard to believe that with football's popularity they failed to guess it would be a TV success. They probably thought they could be clever by moving out of June — but, as everyone had the same idea, the plan backfired.

Audiences will undoubtedly dip this weekend. Germany v Croatia doesn't have the same ring as England v Holland, but they will pick up again for the semi and the final, so there are still deals to be struck. But after the tournament there will have to be soul-searching on both sides.

● Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign



Media buyers paid the penalty for trying to be too clever



# The World at War

**Carol Midgley asks why a respected BBC forum is now bottom of the Downing St popularity stakes**

Who could blame the staff of Radio 4's *The World at One* for feeling a trifle browbeaten this week? After all, it's not every day that the Prime Minister's chief press secretary publicly awards you bottom marks in the league table of news and current affairs programmes.

In a letter to *The Times*, Alastair Campbell wrote that many ministers now decline to appear on the programme because "very few people in politics or the media take it seriously". One of the Chancellor's aides spoke more candidly, confiding: "They don't get anyone on. They are wankers."

It is clear that *The World at One* has become unpopular, especially with government aides. Of course, self-respecting journalists have no business being in the pockets of politicians, and managing to rattle their cages is an achievement of which they should be proud. But even the most seasoned Westminster hands have been taken aback by the ferocity of feeling against what until now was regarded as one of the BBC's more respected news forums.

Much of Labour's chagrin can be traced to last year's general election campaign, when it was no secret that the programme's agenda frustrated the party spin-doctors. *World at One* staff say they simply ran what they regarded as the most important stories of the day—which did not always agree with Labour's view of what should be newsworthy. "We did our own thing and set our own agenda, and Labour did not like that. We were not on message," says an insider. "We attended all



Nick Clarke, presenter of *The World at One*, talking to Robin Cook at a Labour conference

the briefings, but only went with what we thought were genuinely good stories. They hated us for it." Government sources, however, give a different version. "That programme was obsessed with spin-doctors and media navel-gazing," says one. "They were not interested in stories about policy which might have affected the lives of ordinary people, the voters, but only about the process of politics. And if there was an anti-Labour story, they would lead on it for three days in a row when others had long since moved on."

One of these stories, of course, was the one about Labour planning to privatise the National Air Traffic Control Service. It was a story that provided welcome headlines for Tony Blair and the Labour campaign team.

But the ill-feeling runs deeper. Kevin Marsh, the programme's editor, had a mighty bust-up with Tim Allen, then Campbell's deputy and now director of corporate communications for BSkyB.

The dispute concerned three stories released by Labour at the time Robin Cook announced that he was leaving his wife — a

review of the fate of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, Kenneth Clarke being invited to join a cross-party committee on economic policy, and a development on M16's investigation into Chris Patten.

The Patten story was carried on *The World This Weekend*, a Radio 4 programme also edited by Marsh. Next day, however, *The World at One* carried a piece suggesting that Labour had manipulated the news agenda to take the spotlight off the Foreign Secretary's marital problems.

"It made Tim Allen's life a misery, and they have not forgot-

ten it in Downing Street," says a BBC source. Another adds: "Kevin is not bothered about upsetting them, you see. He is the best editor the BBC has got, with an excellent nose for a story. Nobody knows what his politics are."

Whitehall sources think differently. "Kevin is a very talented guy but on that occasion he wanted it both ways. He ran with the original story, then did another saying it was all cooled up by spin-doctors," says one. "World at One" journalists were told at the beginning of the election campaign that their mission was not to write about policies and manifestos, but to dig for a so-called scandal that wasn't there. It was purely gratuitous.

Former journalists on the programme will probably smile at the suggestion that it is doggedly anti-Labour. Since its inception with its first presenter William Hardcastle in 1966, it has often been accused of being just the opposite. As long ago as 1970, Tory MPs were accusing it of favouring Labour, and Brian Mawhinney lodged an official complaint about anti-Tory bias in 1996.

In 1989 James Naughtie, then the presenter, famously clashed with Neil Kinnock. Kinnock swore and declared he was not going to be "bloody kebabed" by Naughtie. Recording had to be stopped while the Labour leader composed himself.

Political journalists concede that they now get fewer stories from the programme than they did two years ago. One says: "I can't remember when we last got a splash out of them, but the political climate has changed. And if fewer politicians appear on the programme, there are fewer opportunities for stories to arise."

Perhaps Nick Clarke, the programme's presenter, has adopted the best attitude to all the fuss. In an article in the *New Statesman* he writes that he is flattered that government aides have taken the trouble to describe him and his colleagues as wankers.

As he says: "There is surely some kudos in knowing the smooth service of the news management machinery can still be scratched."

## Get ready for a brave new age

Britain's digital broadcasting party is about to begin. Everywhere there are signs of frantic preparations, of deals slotting into place and extensive marketing campaigns.

By the start of September it will be very difficult to ignore that an important battle is under way to persuade viewers that five television channels are not enough, and that even existing channels will look and sound better in digital.

This week the BBC launched a press campaign aimed at undermining the sceptics. The digital age really will revolutionise broadcasting, the BBC insists, and you, the viewer, had better sit up and pay attention.

Among the welter of announcements, it would have been easy to miss the news that Microsoft's WebTV subsidiary is dead set serious about coming into the UK television market, and has linked up with the BBC for extensive trials. In the United States, 400,000 subscribers have already signed up for WebTV's interactive television service. It integrates traditional broadcasting with additional text and graphics, Internet access and e-mail on a conventional television screen. No dates have been announced, but it would be surprising if WebTV is not available in Britain by autumn 1999.

Next Thursday radio will make a digital pitch with the confirmation that six manufacturers will launch digital car radio models this autumn.

And BSkyB is now making clear that, from later this month, it will use special offers to try to convert more than four million satellite-dish owners to digital.

But the most significant development of the week came on Wednesday when BSkyB — in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — announced that it had finally reached agreement with three programming organisations, Discovery, UKTV and Flextech, to show their channels on digital satellite.

The agreements were scarcely a surprise. All three organisations are

linked through joint ventures or common ownership and, in turn, have tie-ups with the BBC.

The deals mean, however, that in one swoop no fewer than 17 channels have been added to the digital satellite-roster on the way to assembling a 200-channel line-up.

Although we always knew that digital satellite was going to have much more capacity than digital terrestrial, which will offer about thirty channels, this week's deals highlighted the imbalance between the two systems. Some of those involved whispered privately yesterday that they had identified digital satellite as the winner, which was why they were determined to scramble on board.

A number of channels will not be available to British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the main commercial digital terrestrial player.

It is a small but eloquent sign that BSkyB now regards BDB as a rival, rather than a partner, in the development of digital television in Britain, now that the satellite company is no longer an equity investor in BDB but merely a programme supplier.

There is still no sign that BDB, due to launch in mid-November, has managed to sign up any significant attractions on an exclusive basis.

The company, a joint venture between Carlton and Granada, will concentrate on its obvious advantages: that most viewers, but not all, will be able to receive 30 extra channels with an existing conventional aerial and without the need to have either a satellite dish or cable connection.

The company has also stumbled upon an extra dimension to its "plug-in-and-play" marketing approach: the digital terrestrial system is portable. If you move house, you simply take it with you. All that the operators of the three digital systems — satellite, terrestrial and cable — have to do now is persuade people that they really do want to pay more for extra television choice and to turn the television in the corner into a hybrid computer.



Raymond Snoddy

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# Rising son of the East

Jonathan Fenby on the media tycoon that Beijing loves to hate

A year after Hong Kong's return to China, the outspoken newspaper owner Jimmy Lai is alive and well, and reading Lord Acton. It is not clear if Mr Lai, China's least favourite proprietor, intends to apply the wisdom of the eminent Victorian thinker to the cut-throat press world of the Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic. But, much as his more high-minded peers decry the style of his publications, Mr Lai's current wellbeing is a powerful indication of the continuing freedom of the territory's media.

Just three years ago, the one-time penniless refugee from Guangzhou founded a brash newspaper, *Apple Daily*, to complement his equally racy magazine called *Next*. With its short stories, heavy use of colour photographs and graphics, consumer tests and overall punchiness, the paper took Hong Kong by storm. Sales are running at about 300,000, and readership has reached 1.5 million, fewer than 200,000 behind the long-time popular market leader, the *Oriental Daily News*.

Sitting in his partitioned-off space in his new premises on an industrial estate, Mr Lai talks of accounting for 65 per cent of Hong Kong's 5.5 million newspaper readership in three years' time.

*Apple Daily's* editorial approach horrifies some Hong Kong editors for its sensationalism. The paper includes "reviews" of girls in red light

bars and can be counted on to print the goriest pictures of the latest murder.

Mr Lai is unfazed. Asked if he would consider dropping the "sex page", he replies that doing so would cut sales on the day it appears by 25 per cent. He insists that the sensationalism enables him to promote freedom and democracy through the market, which is certainly something he knows a lot about. Smuggled into Hong Kong through Macau at the age of 12, he made his first fortune through stock market speculation, built up a business making sweaters and then hit the big time with a retail clothing chain whose name — *Giordano* — made many people think it was Italian.

A great believer in focus groups and consumer service journalism, Mr Lai links his success with *Apple* and *Next* to an absence of the hang-ups that afflict traditional press people. A key element is probably that he is not a newspaperman. His aim, he says, is to give the customers what they want. "I don't see newspapers any differently to the T-shirts I was selling in Giordano."

But Hong Kong, and some people further afield, regard Mr Lai's operation as rather more than that. All successful newspaper proprietors embody the spirit of their time and their place, and he is no exception. In his trademark jeans and braces, he epitomises the hustling, irreverent side of Hong Kong which is not too concerned with the de-

To drop the sex page would cut sales by 25%



Apple Daily's punchy approach, left, has made it a big seller. Its owner, Jimmy Lai, right, and his publications are banned on mainland China but operate freely in Hong Kong

tails of politics but has a keen awareness of the value of freedom. He has a Paris flat by the Seine, but is everybody's street-smart brother. He likes to eat three-star food at the Grand Vefour in Paris, but was equally at home recently pouring lager from the can as he worked our way through the menu at a bare-walled Chinese-Malaysian walk-up restaurant in Kuala Lumpur.

His paper may not sell on its political coverage, but Mr Lai is a highly political figure, thanks to insults he fired at the

former Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, in *Next* magazine. That means that Mr Lai and his publications are on the banned list in China proper — his reporters, for instance, were not allowed to cover President Clinton's visit to the mainland. Commercially, his politics can be a burden. China-related companies do not advertise in *Apple Daily*, and Mr Lai has had problems with plans to list on the stock exchange. *Apple* and *Next* are not the favourite reading of the

post-handover Government in Hong Kong either, but Mr Lai is the first to say that he has not come under any official pressure to tone down his publications since last July. Some of his critics, however, wish he would do just that. *Apple* has breached the old tradition under which most Hong Kong newspapers were politically neutral and reported serious matters seriously. There is no doubt that its heart and soul lies with the democrats who won a large majority of votes in legislative

elections in May. The question is whether the paper's in-your-face approach is as suitable for reporting Hong Kong's complex politics and seething economy as it is for chasing the latest karaoke bar affray or whether, in an echo of British tabloids, it has coarsened public debate into a good guys versus bad guys, two-dimensional view of life. Mr Lai, characteristically, has no doubt to work, he insists, *Apple* has to be the print equivalent of fast-moving colour television. If his

competitors have to change or die, that is the way a free market works. And the reality has been a good deal more encouraging. Like it or not, the fact that, three years after its launch, *Apple Daily* can set its sights on capturing a two-thirds share of the market, in this small part of the last major state ruled by the Communist Party, says something about the freedom of the press in Hong Kong.

After all the gloom and doom about the outlook for the Hong Kong media last summer, the reality has been a good deal more encouraging. Like it or not, the fact that, three years after its launch, *Apple Daily* can set its sights on capturing a two-thirds share of the market, in this small part of the last major state ruled by the Communist Party, says something about the freedom of the press in Hong Kong.

Jonathan Fenby is Editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong

## British adman in Cannes

A COUPLE of joggers are abused in the street: a woman screams at them, an old man shouts that they're crazy; rubbish is thrown at them by a speeding motorist. A caption asks "What if we treated all athletes the way we treat skateboarders?"

This American ad is one of a three-film series for Nike that also sees tennis players having their surreptitious mid-night game interrupted by a security guard, and golfers being arrested on the putting green for daring to play.

Was this campaign the best in the world over the past year? Last week in Cannes, at the 45th annual International Advertising Festival, it was voted so in front of 7,000 delegates from around the world who had gathered to view more than 4,900 commercials.

The Nike campaign put the seal on a festival that was dominated by the Americans, who walked off with 13 of the 23 gold awards. New agencies with silly names such as Wongdoody, Suburban and the Kowloon Wholesale Seafood Company appeared on the stage for the first time and signalled that they would become important players in the advertising world.

The widely held view that there had been a renaissance in American creativity was put down largely to a buoyant economy in which major marketers were prepared to buy more adventurous advertising. It's a sensible theory, but it falls apart when applied to the British.

The Brits normally battle with the US for the top prizes. This year the tally was just three golds, and that was being generous. There was no controversy at all about the wonderful VW "lampoon" ad that has cleaned up at UK awards ceremonies. However, the impulse spot in which a beautiful art school student induces an erection in the volunteer wiper, and the Sony PlayStation ad which sees a chef pick his nose and put the result in the starter, wipe the main course around the rim of the toilet bowl, and spit cognac over the dessert, were each a little lucky.

The other much-fancied UK ads — the BBC's "Perfect Day" and Nike's "Parklife" starring Eric Cantona — got nothing. But they looked less impressive in international competition than they did on our screens back home.

Which is not to say they have suddenly become bad ads. An international jury cannot possibly hope to understand the context in which an ad was created or the target audience it is aimed at — particularly when it has ploughed through 4,900 films in four days.

Equally, the winners will not appeal to all who see them. The American



squirrel greeting the Dial-A-Mattress deliverymen warmly because he is looking forward to his hibernation away from his nagging wife will not be to everyone's taste. Neither will the Miller Lite ad in which a beer drinker's arm waggles with joy like a dog's tail and sprays beer around, nor the series of ads in which Seattle Supersonics basketballers drop in unexpectedly on fans in their homes.

The latter, in particular, is a little too schmaltzy for British tastes. We tend to hide our emotions behind irony or verbal and visual punning, letting our talented directors cover up for the shortcomings of the script with their filmic virtuosity. The ads that won at Cannes this year were, by contrast, largely simple ideas told in an understated filmic style.

Having read all this you may be forgiven for asking why it matters. After all, it all seems a long way away from the principal task of the advertising industry: shifting its clients' products. But in the context of the ever-increasing globalisation of the ad industry, the one genuinely global advertising competi-

tion matters more than ever. Clients are looking for interesting agencies creating stimulating work — and they care ever less about the location or size of agencies. They can use other agency networks to run the work worldwide if they need to.

Smart agencies, such as Britain's Barrie Bogle Hegarty and Lowe Howard-Spink and America's BBDO, have long used exposure and awards at Cannes to attract anyone from potential new clients to possible international acquisition targets.

But, to be honest, many people, particularly Brits, go to Cannes primarily for fun, and the chance to meet and schmooze with people they may never gain access to during the course of the regular working week.

There's a bar there on the Croisette where the Brits hang out. Opposite the swanky Martinez Hotel, it is aptly nicknamed the "gutter bar" because it gets so packed by two in the morning that everyone has to stand in the road outside. There for the past quarter century the same people have played the same games, told the same jokes and sneered at the same foreigners.

While this goes on, new countries from Russia to Korea and China have been coming to Cannes in their hundreds. They sit in the auditoriums watching hundreds of ads — many mind-numbing — often taking notes. Now, as in the case of Brazil, they are starting to win almost as many awards as we do. Will our advertising, one of the few things we still can genuinely claim to be best in the world at, lose its edge over the rest?

It will if we continue to ignore that the rest of the world continues to catch up. Why should the ad industry be any different from our sports teams or manufacturing industries? It is not only English football fans who have been displaying a sadly misplaced disdain for the rest of the world in France this past month.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES

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Play The Times Week 4 game today for the chance to win up to £5,000 and a Vauxhall Astra when you reveal three matching symbols. There is also a further £10,000 in cash, a Tigris Chequers and a Corsa Breeze to be won by playing the Week 4 ITV/Vauxhall Team Check game this week.

### HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME

#### START PLAYING THE WEEK 4 GAME NOW

Five minutes of games for The Times Week 4 Team Check game now. You need to reveal three matching symbols on your game card. Do NOT scratch off any names that do not appear on your game card. You will reveal a symbol: a football, a whistle, a book, a cup, a lioness's flag or a footballer. If you have revealed three matching symbols today you have won a share of this Week's Times/Sunday Times £25,000 prize and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0161-501 1240 before 3pm today.

### YASHIN 1 BURRUCHAGA 15

MORE PLAYERS' NAMES FOR THE TIMES WEEK 4 GAME WILL BE PRINTED TOMORROW  
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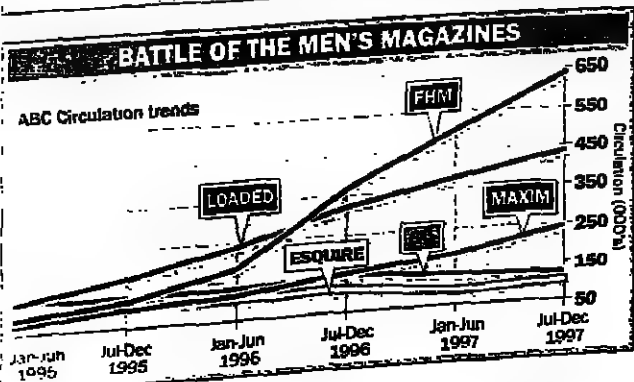
Prize winners: Week 3 David Janovskis, Manchester, wins a Corsa Breeze and £1,000. Simon Gomersall, Canterbury, wins a pair of tickets to both World Cup Semi-final matches and £1,000. Kevin Manning, Southampton, Clare Curran, Leatherhead and Jack Chew, Ashford, Kent, each win £1,000. William Bradbeer, London SE21, wins a Corsa Breeze, £5,000 plus a pair of tickets to the World Cup Final.

### HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL

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Tune in to ITV's World Cup quarter-finals coverage today of ITALY v FRANCE which will be broadcast live at 3.30pm and BRAZIL v DENMARK at 8pm, for your Team Check numbers for the ITV/Vauxhall Week 4 game on your card. At the beginning and the end of the commercial breaks in these programmes you will see Vauxhall sponsorship clips. DURING EACH CLIP A WHITE TEAM CHECK NUMBER WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE TOP LEFT-HAND CORNER OF THE SCREEN. If any of the highlighted numbers match a number on the silver football shirts on the Week 4 ITV/Vauxhall game on your card, scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any numbers that do not appear on your gamecard will be void. You will reveal a symbol. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of this week's ITV/Vauxhall £10,000 Team Check prize and must call the claims line between 9.30am and 3pm tomorrow.

MORE NUMBERS FOR THE ITV/VAUXHALL WEEK 4 GAME WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW



THE "new ladism" of FHM and Loaded seems to be paying off, with both titles enjoying soaring circulations. In the last ABC period (July '97 to Dec '97), FHM was bubbling at the 650,000 mark and looks set to rise further. Prior to the launch of IPC's Loaded in April 1995, the men's magazine market had rarely breached 100,000 sales. The market veterans, Arena and QJ, have not managed

the same success. Despite QJ's move towards "ladism", there has been no rise in circulation of late.

Emap, IPC and Dennis will be happy as their titles, FHM, Loaded and Maxim, are on the rise. The lads are out and they have money to spend.

MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (telephone: 0171-439 7575).



MORE VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW



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- Be capable of developing good working relationships with senior policy makers within the civil service, educational institutions and the business world.
- Possess a thorough understanding of current educational and employment policy.

The current Chief Executive will be retiring in March 1999. If you think you have what it takes, please send your CV and covering letter, to arrive no later than Tuesday, 21st July to:-

Sir John Cassels, Chairman, Sussex Careers Services Headquarters, The Rise, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN41 2PY.

Sussex Careers Services is committed to equality of opportunity and encourages others to be equally committed.



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## EDUCATION

## Time to untie the straitjacket

There can be no reform of the A-level system until universities change their attitudes, says Vivian Anthony

The A level has served generations of students well and established standards envied throughout the world, but time is moving on and both schools and employers see the need for change.

The system must allow students to develop their own strengths while also laying the foundations for lifelong learning and for changes of career and lifestyles. We must maintain the best features of A level and improve vocational qualifications, but we must also learn from experience elsewhere in the world how to bring the best out of the much larger number of young people now in post-16 education.

Forty head teachers and other experts in the field met at Sevenoaks School recently to consider radical solutions. They were driven by a sense of disappointment that the Government had not made more of the many recommendations of the Dearing report and by the frustration that comes from having to operate in a straitjacket imposed by external forces.

In schools that send 95 per cent of their students on to university, the desire to help them to win the best places is strong. Prestigious universities set high entrance tariffs and schools and students have to plan strategies to help the latter to achieve the goal. That usually means obtaining the highest possible A-level grades. Anything else is icing on the cake and is usually influential only if there are more applicants with the required grades than there are places.

When applicants write to universities to ask if their extra subjects, general studies or any other evidence of broad and balanced education will



The A road: vice-chancellors may extol the virtues of a well-rounded education but admissions tutors want next year's students to have even better results

help them to secure a place, they are told to concentrate on obtaining an A grade in the relevant subjects. Much as vice-chancellors proclaim the virtues of candidates having a well-rounded education, the admissions tutors want next year's students to have even better results. In such circumstances, what school would risk its students' chances by introducing an exciting new academic programme?

Other restrictions come from the Government and its advisers. "A-level standards must be maintained" is the bottom line, and thinking about what is meant by standards is bunkered. They do not accept that it is possible to produce an equally demanding programme involving the study of more subjects with reduced, but carefully selected, core content in each. The media reinforce the prejudices with references to a "dumbing-down process".

So the Government is en-

couraging schools to teach a one-year programme of five subjects to AS level, at a standard equivalent to the first year of A level, followed by three subjects taken on to A level in the second year. Many courses will be in modular form: three modules for an AS, six in total for A level. What has not been explained is how schools will find the time to teach 15 modules in the first-year sixth form (five subjects x three modules) where they currently teach nine (three subjects x three modules).

Far from increasing resources to make this task easier, the Government is considering how economies can be achieved. At the same time, schools will be asked to take on additional teaching to help students to develop communication, numeracy and information technology. Heads can be forgiven for wondering how students stretched by the current demands of three subjects will cope with five subjects to

be studied to the same level, with no extra time available. GCSE is another part of the straitjacket, pressing all young people to jump this hurdle at the same time. Equally restricting is the system for publishing schools' exam results. No serious move away from aggregated qualifications is likely to occur while schools are judged by the number of GCSE subjects candidates obtain when they are 15 or A levels at 17.

A number of different ways forward were considered at Sevenoaks. The International Baccalaureate provides a post-16 qualification, which has gained worldwide acceptability, and which requires students to take three higher-level subjects and three subsidiary subjects in different areas. While the content of these courses is less than for A and AS level, the standards achieved are considered to be

comparable, or even superior, by the aficionados. Although the IB provides a balance of breadth and specialism that is widely praised, there has been limited take-up in this country because it is demanding on students and requires additional teaching and other resources.

However, universities here and abroad have been persuaded that the IB provides a good preparation for degree work, and IB students are said to perform at least as well as their A-level peers at university. Admissions tutors, in considering IB candidates, apparently take a different view of them than of A-level candidates offering a breadth of qualifications. While the A-level candidate has to obtain, say, ABB for a place at a highly rated university, the IB candidate would have to achieve the equivalent number of Ucas points (26) spread across all six subjects.

This must surely be the way forward for the new A/AS/

GNVQ arrangements if the universities want to encourage a broader approach. Schools must negotiate with admissions tutors deals that are at least as favourable as those for the IB. Points must be awarded for all five AS subjects taken in the lower sixth as well as for A-level passes. Candidates should not be expected to obtain such high grades if they are taking five AS and three A levels as those who concentrate on three A levels. Credit must also be given for key skills.

Unless these offer fairness as well as flexibility, most schools will continue down the old, narrow A-level route, which may suit those highly able candidates with a strong specialist bent but which does no service to those who wish to continue with a broad and balanced programme throughout their secondary education.

● The author is the Secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

Iola Smith on a project to persuade expatriate Welsh to come home

## Allure of the countryside

Many school-leavers in rural areas barely look back as they head for university or jobs in the city. They take it for granted that the countryside has little to offer them in adult life.

But a group of schools in Wales is attempting to stem the exodus. The European Union is putting £371,000 into a project that sees them as the key to regenerating the region. Seven secondary schools are working with the Development Board for Rural Wales (DBRW) to trace former pupils — going as far back as 1968 — who could be encouraged to return to contribute economically and socially to their home communities.

"There is great potential for young people from Mid-Wales to return to set up businesses, take up employment, invest and contribute," says Sian Lloyd Jones, the board's chief executive. She has followed that path herself. A former Newtown High School pupil, she studied at Oxford and then worked for a Japanese bank before returning to live and work in Newtown, in Powys.

"None of the Routes Project could be prepared without the assistance of information technology," says Ian Brown, the head of one of the participating schools, Builth Wells High School, in Powys. "Our IT department is developing a database of pupils who have attended the school over its 102-year history. We are starting with this year's school-leavers, who are filling a questionnaire about their educational achievements, employment and factors that influence their decision to stay or move away. And previous pupils are asked whether they are interested in returning."

As Builth Wells's largest employer, creating work for some 70 people from teachers to cleaners, the 650-pupil school takes its community responsibilities seriously. Developing a lasting relationship with former pupils is part of

that commitment, and the school is preparing a newsletter to be sent to all individuals on the database.

"Depopulation is the problem, particularly among the 20-50 age group," says Mr Brown. "Part of our aim is to correct the misconceptions that many former pupils may have about returning to live in the countryside."

"So for those considering returning — quite a few do in their late twenties and early thirties — we can use the database to give them information about training and employment opportunities."

Next term Builth Wells's GNVQ business studies students are to extend the database, information about which is available on the school's Internet site. A past pupil now based in Florida has made contact as a result. The DBRW hopes that past pupils will bring new skills and perhaps even new businesses back to their home communities, following the example of Laura Ashley, who returned to Wales to establish a manufacturing operation.

However, as Mr Brown notes with relief, some people prefer to remain close to their rural roots. The family of Clara Thomas, the school's benefactress more than 100 years ago, for example, has retained close links ever since by having members of the family serving regularly on the governing body.

To launch the Routes Project last month, Builth Wells's pupils created and performed a play outlining what youngsters perceived as the negative aspects of country living. Pupils from a second participating school, Towy High School, in Gwynedd, presented the opposite view, by focusing on the positive changes taking place today.

Countering the former view and boosting the latter will be the database's aim over the next few years.

## Bringing sopranos and tenors to 10-year-olds

Those who think opera is "too difficult" for or "irrelevant" to children should have been at Pavilion Opera's live performance at Hathaway primary school in Ealing on Tuesday, when 125 10 and 11-year-olds — some of whom were visitors from the nearby John Perry primary school and from Castlebar, the special school next door — listened, rapt, to 90 minutes of Verdi's *Don Carlos*, sung in Italian. Faces were studiously attentive, and collective breath was palpably held during quiet moments. Enthusiastic applause told its own story.

Dressed mostly in velvet, the company presented a seamlessly abridged version of *Don Carlos* "in the round". The stage, a square carpet, was dominated by a huge wooden cross, an uncompromising reminder of the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition.

No member of the junior audience was more than a few feet away from the blood, thunder and passion of the action which was ably accompanied on piano by the music director, Peter Bailey, and his assistant, Gillian Ford. "It's wonderful," said Farlan Nazir, 10, dreamily in the interval. "Especially the smell of the steam, and the big piano." Farlan had and the big piano." Farlan had and the big piano." Farlan had and the big piano.

Actors playing so near the audience must use a lot of facial expression. This they did, also taking every opportunity to move among the children and get down to floor level to share levers and other "secrets" with them.

"What I liked best," said Clare Sylverson, 10, "was when they came down near us as though they were singing to us directly. It was much better than seeing opera on TV."

Pavilion Opera, founded in 1981 by Freddie Stockdale, has given 15,000 professional camcorder performances of 20 different operas. Since the formation of the company's educational trust with charitable sta-

Children in Ealing are enjoying a taste of opera. Susan Elkin reports



Pavilion Opera perform *Don Carlos* at Hathaway School

tus in 1992, Pavilion has also done about 12 performances each year in schools as part of national curriculum music for 8 to 12-year-olds.

The Ealing project — which, after two three-year cycles, finished this year — has been sponsored by Greenford-based Glaxo Wellcome. During the past six years every primary school in the borough has tasted live opera. Three more performances of *Don Carlos* — this year's offering — will reach hundreds more children in eight Ealing schools. Pavilion Opera Education Trust (Poet) also works in other areas, such as Sheffield and Lambeth, and would do more if further corporate sponsorship were forthcoming. An arrangement is made between the Director of Education and Poet about how best to present

Happily, there were no such problems at Hathaway. The walls of the school hall were decorated with — among other things — impeccably mounted work by children on Verdi's life and times, the Spanish Inquisition and lovely Holbein-esque paintings of the characters in *Don Carlos*. They had also been listening to tapes of the main arias.

And what scope there was for raising language awareness, too. The singers' diction was remarkably clear and, as Leah Vansanten-Smith, 10, commented perceptively, "I'd rather hear it in Italian because English wouldn't go with the music."

Opera has always been a social event as well as an artistic experience, and afterwards there was a special tea during which the children collected autographs from the singers — still smiling and able to chat naturally with their young audience. Pupils also had a good mingle with council officials, representatives of the sponsor, local clergymen, the community policeman and several journalists and photographers.

"We hope that, whatever happens in the future, we will have given them at least one good experience, a starting point, that they will remember," says Mr Stockdale. He insists that the children write him a post-performance letter. So Poet has a heart-warming and well-deserved fat file of immaculately presented, excited letters from young opera fans.

Public funding and cultural importance of the arts, particularly opera, has been much debated this week. The arts summit held at Downing Street on Monday preceded Tuesday's publication of Richard Eyre's damning report. Those engrossed Ealing children certainly made it as clear as Tony Blair, Richard Eyre or anyone else could wish that there need be nothing snobbish or elitist about opera. These children, who had learnt and enjoyed themselves so much, were of all creeds, cultures, colours and backgrounds. And some of them had severe learning difficulties. Opera is indeed for everyone.

About a week before the big day Mr Stockdale visits each school involved to check that this has been done to a high standard. "I'm not proud of it, but I once had to bar a school from the performance because it hadn't taken the preparation requirement seriously enough," he says.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

## PASSPORT TO A SENSATIONAL SUMMER

FROM DINOSAURS TO DUNGEONS, CASTLES TO CONCERTS, TRAINS TO TEDDIES...



From July to October, *The Times*, in association with worldwide financial experts Zurich Insurance, is giving you a Passport to a Sensational Summer. You and your family can enjoy special concessions, representing savings of up to £200. As well as your Passport card, you will also receive a region-by-region listings guide. In the coming weeks, read *The Times* Weekend section on Saturdays for more discounts at other special events.



## A TASTE OF WHAT YOU WILL SEE AND SAVE

**BRODSWORTH HALL AND GARDENS.** Doncaster. One of the few fully-furnished Victorian houses open to the public. Thirty rooms to see, children's quiz sheet, restaurant. Passport holders receive two for one admission. Often described as "the jewel in Ireland's gardening crown", **ALTAMONT GARDEN TRUST.** Co Carlow, has a romantic mix of formal and informal gardens and boasts a remarkable collection of rare trees, shrubs, roses, rhododendrons and a herb garden. Passport holders receive two for one admission.

At the **ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM**, Gillingham, Kent, learn the history of the Sappers with displays about the first military divers, photographers, aviators, see the map of the battle of Waterloo, a Harrier Jump Jet, a section of the Berlin Wall and much more. Passport holders receive £1 off adult admission. Children go free with an adult Passport holder at **TATTERSHALL CASTLE**, Lincolnshire. A medieval castle with moats, peacocks, grand chambers, a children's I-Spy quiz, family guide and guardhouse with museum and shop.

ZURICH

CHANGING TIMES



## ROWING

# Eton cause their coach to consider an extra cup

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

THE official Henley recorders are not known for over-enthusiasm and the report on the Princess Elizabeth Cup race at 3.35pm contained itself with the line: "A classic schoolboys' race". Presumably the packed enclosures agreed, since the noise generated at Eton and St Edward's battled for supremacy was deafening.

Eton prevailed, by half a length, after thrust and counter-thrust from both crews over the 14-mile course, but the tenacity of both schools demanded admiration. Bruce Grainger, the Eton coach, put down his video camera and said: "I need two cups of tea after that."

The race produced a fast time, nine seconds outside the record in bumpy conditions. It was bettered, however, by the main American contenders, St Mary's Prep, who were pushed, also to half a length, by St Paul's, who also raised the noise level.

There was more to come in the evening when Radley were led marginally by St Paul's, Concord, US over the whole course until the crescendo of enclosure noise lifted them to a one-third of a length success. Their time matched that of St Mary's Prep.

Response from the enclosures was enthusiastic, but more subdued, for the efforts of newcomers to the Royal Regatta. Old met new in the first Ladies' Plate eight's heat

when Trinity College, Dublin met the Turks of Galatasaray Spor Kulubu, experiencing Henley for the first time.

No one knew quite what to expect from Galatasaray but once the umpire, Mike Sweeney, dropped his flag, they found out. The Turks matched Trinity in rate but edged to a three-quarter length lead after two minutes. Trinity pulled this back to half a length by halfway but made no further impression until the last 100 yards when their stroke man, William Gilbert, wound his crew to 41 and they squeezed a quarter-length win in the fastest time of the Regatta to date.

The first appearance of Chilean and Guatemalan competitors also aroused interest and proved them to be well up to standard. Javier Godoy, at a mere 11st 4lb, came agonisingly close to a first Henley win for a Chilean in the Diamond Sculls. Facing Marthijs van der Schoot, of Holland, Godoy kept cool when beaten off the start, took a narrow lead at halfway and extended this to three-quarters of a length by the enclosures.

The Dutchman attacked but Godoy looked like hanging on until he hit the bonus five strokes from the line. A cruel "not rowed out" decision ensued. Guatemala was the first of the "new boys" to record a success when Herman Garcia and Rudi Morla

beat Paul Thomas and Oliver Webber, of Marlow. The diminutive Guatemalans face Britain's top heavyweights, Simon Goodbrand and Colin Greenaway, in the Double Sculls today.

Another diminutive Latin American competitor, Maria Garisoain, from Argentina, progressed through her first round of the Women's Sculls. Garisoain, just 9st 4lb, was timed at 8min 49sec. The two selected women, Guin Batten, of Great Britain, 11st 13lb, and Maria Brandin, of Sweden, 13st 10lb and the holder, cruised through their first races, timed at 8min 43sec and 8min 45sec respectively.

Both Greg Searle, the holder, and Jamie Koven, the world champion from the United States, won their races in the Diamond Sculls yesterday. Koven faces Tristan Pascall, of Australia, today.

The American will be wary of the young Australian, who once again overtook his opponent, Alex Wake, at the finish line yesterday.

The first round of the Visitors' fours saw Isis, which comprises four members of the Britain Under-23 eight, beat the Barrier and Fawley records in their win over Nereus, Holland.

## Henley '98



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The Galatasaray eight feel the pressure in a losing battle with Trinity College, Dublin in the Ladies' Plate

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Garisoain looks comfortable in her second-round victory in the Princess Elizabeth Cup

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

### Thames Cup

Holders: Nottingham A

Second round  
London A at London B 2-4 lengths, 6min 37sec.  
Bourbridge BC at Cambridge 99 RC 11, 6:34.  
Nottingham and Union RC at Black Sheep RC 1-1, 6:48.  
Nottingham BC at Kingston RC easily, 6:29.  
Queens Tower BC at Thames RC 2-1, 6:47.  
Commodore RC at Farnwell Club 2-1, 6:40.

### Princess Elizabeth Cup

Holders: St Paul's

Second round  
R M Doyle at E J Pany easily, 9:12.  
S K Watts at A Holtege easily, 9:29.  
Hampton School A at Abingdon School B 141, 7:02.  
Westbury School at King Edward VI School (SA) 2-1, 6:50.  
St Mary's Preparatory School (US) at St Paul's School 1, 6:29.  
Eton College at St Edwards School 1, 6:31.  
The Kings School at Radley College B 4, 6:45.  
Abingdon School A at The Oakley School 2, 6:42.

### Wyfold Cup

Holders: Molesey A

Second round  
Queens Tower BC A at Kingston RC 1-1, 7:01.  
Dresden RC B (US) at Molesey RC 2-1, 7:08.  
Eton RC at Bourbridge BC 1-1, 6:52.  
Worcester RC at Molesey BC 1-1, 6:58.  
Clyde Amateur RC at Swanger Rolyub (M) 3-1, 7:10.  
Rugerschoot (SA) at York City RC 2-1, 7:05.  
Star Club at London Rowing Club B 2-1, 7:06.

### Temple Cup

Holders: Goldie

Second round  
Curnam University B at Jesus College, Cambridge 1, 6:49.  
University of Wales College, Cardiff at Manchester University 3-1, 6:55.  
Columbia University (US) at Reading University 2-1, 6:37.  
First and Third Trinity BC, Cambridge at Isis BC 5-1, 6:41.  
Cambridge University Light RC at Syracuse University (US) 1, 6:42.  
Glasgow University at St Aid and St Bede College 2-1, 6:48.  
Exeter College, Oxford at University of Warwick 1, 7:02.  
Wesleyan University (US) at Oriel College, Oxford easily, 6:40.  
Willesden College (US) at Nephthys BC 3-1, 6:41.  
Newcastle University at Grand Valley State University (US) 2-1, 6:38.  
Imperial College, London at Oxford University Light RC 2-1, 6:40.  
Princeton (US) at University of Natal (SA) 1, 6:29.  
Georgetown University (US) at Leeds University 4-1, 6:40.  
Edinburgh University at Oxford Brookes University 3-1, 6:29.

### Britannia Cup

Holders: Univ of London

Second round  
Edinburgh University A at Vesta RC B 1, 7:13.  
Castle Sempole RC at Edinburgh University B easily, 7:25.  
Thames Trainers' RC at Kingston University 1, 7:12.  
Marlow RC at Sheffield University 1st, 7:15.  
Napier RC (Ire) at London RC A 2-1, 7:07.  
Lea RC at Cambridge '98 RC 1-1, 7:13.

### Diamond Sculls

Holders: G M P Searle

Second round  
G K Towey at R J Biscoe 2, 9:07.  
A Van Den Broek at T A Drenth 1-1, 9:17.  
M P Van Der Schoot (Holl) at J Godoy (Chile) not rowed over, 7:55.  
A G D Maher (Ire) at P B Dries (Holl) 2-1, 8:11.  
J MacCall (Aus) at A M Wake 1-1, 8:04.  
G M P Searle at K R Beatty (Can) easily, 8:02.  
J W Koven (US) at P D Thomas easily, 8:04.

### Ladies Plate

Holders: Notts County and Oxford Brookes Univ

First round  
Trinity College, Dublin at Galatasaray Spor Kulubu (Tur) 1-1, 6:25.  
Dartmouth RC (US) at Syracuse University (US) 1-1, 6:28.

### Visitors' Cup

Holders: Oxford Brookes Univ

First round  
Imperial College A at Algemene Amsterdam (Holl) row over, 8:14.  
Lady Margaret BC and Jesus College, Cambridge at Cambridge University 3-1, 7:14.  
Isis BC at Amersdamsche Studenten (Holl) 1-1, 6:51.  
Durham University at Cambridge University 1-1, 6:55.

### Silver goblets and Nickalls' Cup

Holders: R Thatcher and F B Hunt-Davis

First round  
G D C R Smith at T P Terry 2, 7:33.  
Rudersgemeinschaft, Muthem and Rudersgesellschaft (Wing) (Ger) at Deportivo Phoenix (Chile) 2-1, 7:42.  
Leander Club at Hvalviks Akademisk (Nor) 1-1, 7:25.  
Leander Club at Oron 1-1, 7:37.  
Queens Tower BC at University of London 2-1, 7:43.  
Oxford Brookes University at Eton Vikings 2, 7:31.  
Club Nautique de Chateau Gontier (Fr) at Leander Club 4, 7:34.  
Copenhagen Italian and Club Regatas La Marina 2, 7:40.

### Double Sculls

Holders: M D Free and D Free

First round  
Commercial RC (Ire) at Henley RC 1-1, 7:38.  
Club Aurora (Guatemala) at Marlow RC 1-1, 7:37.  
Stoughton BC at Nottingham and Union RC 1-1, 7:31.  
Augusta Sculling Center (US) at Castle Sempole RC and Glasgow RC 1, 7:10.  
Parr Athletic Club (US) at Kingston RC 1-1, 7:19.  
Avron Merne at Jolimville and Cercle Avron de Nogent (Fr) at Leander Club and Tollymore Scullers School easily, 7:13.  
Rob Roy BC and Kingston RC at Isis BC easily, 7:16.

### Princess Royal Cup

Holders: M H Brandin

Second round  
G Douglas (Aus) at B F M Woolf easily, 8:25.  
M J Garisoain (Arg) at C M H 2-1, 8:49.  
M H Brandin at D C Glibb easily, 8:45.  
G Babin at A L V Van Laemputen easily, 8:48.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times* Lesson 12 - MiniBridge 7. So far every example hand we have seen has been concerned with "top tricks". Le. you just need to cash your aces, king and queens. In real life this is not what usually happens. Instead, you need to establish tricks. This means that you need to force out a high card from an opponent, in order to establish a lower honour card in your own hand. For example, suppose you hold KQ5 of a suit in your hand and 432 in the dummy. There are no tricks to cash in this suit because you do not have the ace. But if you play the king, an opponent will win his ace and your queen will be established as a winner.

Here is an example hand:

♠ A85  
 ♥ 652  
 ♦ KQJ109  
 ♣ A8  
 ♠ QJ1097  
 ♥ A652  
 ♦ AK43  
 ♣ 7  
 ♠ A852  
 ♥ Q1097  
 ♦ 854  
 ♣ Q975

South is the dealer and the players announce their points as follows: South 15, West 11, North 10, East 4. So, South becomes declarer and North puts down dummy. With 25 points between the two hands the target is nine tricks. With no more than a seven-card fit in any suit, South chooses to play no trumps.

Before reaching further, make up these hands and prepare to play through the hand as you read.

West leads his longest suit, spades, and as it is headed by a sequence (three or more consecutive cards) he leads the top of it, i.e. the queen. South has only five "top tricks" (two spades, two hearts and one club) but his target is nine tricks so he must first establish a diamond. When a defender wins his ace, there will be four established diamond tricks in the dummy.

So, South wins the king of spades in his hand and plays a diamond. West wins the ace and plays another spade. South wins the trick with

dummy's ace and plays the queen of diamonds, followed by the jack of diamonds, followed by the ten and nine of diamonds. He discards small cards from his hand and then cashes the ace and king of hearts and ace of clubs to make nine tricks in all.

To learn more from this useful hand, try taking the first trick in dummy with the ace of spades. See what happens when declarer tries to establish the king of diamonds and West wins his ace and plays another spade as before. There are four diamond winners in the dummy but there is no way to reach them. Dummy has no entries. The management of entries can be difficult and is a recurring theme at the table.

If you would like a booklet explaining MiniBridge in greater detail, please write to: EBTU, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BG; tel: 01296 394414, marking the envelope "Times MiniBridge".

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**TURBA**  
a. A legendary horn  
b. A BA in Turkish  
c. The oratorio crowd

**WISHRAM**  
a. A wigwam  
b. An Amerindian  
c. A waterproof cloth

**SEA MONKEY**  
a. A heraldic beast  
b. A midshipman  
c. A kelper

Answers on page 47

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

**Kramnik's revenge**  
Ironically, having utterly failed to win any games against Alexei Shirov in the world qualifying match last month, Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik won against Shirov in their game in Dortmund. Kramnik now shares the lead on 3½ with Peter Leko of Hungary, while Shirov languishes in last place with 1. Michael Adams, of Great Britain, is well placed with 3.

**White: Alexei Shirov**  
**Black: Vladimir Kramnik**  
Dortmund 1998

**Nimzo-Indian Defence**

1 d4 Nf6  
2 c4 e6  
3 Nc3 Bb4  
4 e5 Ngf6  
5 d5 Be7  
6 Bc4 dxc4  
7 Bxc4 Nbd7  
8 Qc2 e5  
9 Nge2 exd4  
10 Qc3 e5  
11 Nc2 Ne5  
12 Nc4 Bc5  
13 Be2 Bc6  
14 Nf3 Bg4  
15 Nxd2 Qd7  
16 Nc4 Qd8  
17 Nc2 Qd7  
18 Bc4 Qd8  
19 Bc2 Qd8  
20 Nc4 Qd8  
21 Nc2 Qd8  
22 Nc4 Qd8  
23 Bc2 Qd8  
24 Bc4 Qd8  
25 Bc2 Qd8  
26 Nc4 Qd8  
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35 Bc2 Qd8  
36 Nc4 Qd8  
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39 Bc2 Qd8  
40 Nc4 Qd8  
41 Bc2 Qd8  
42 Nc4 Qd8

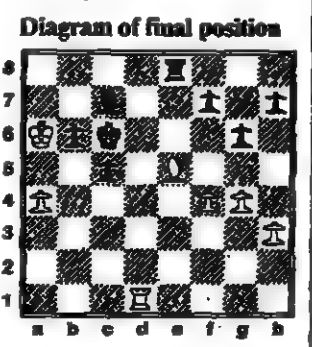


Diagram of final position

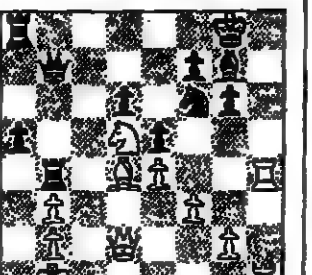
**Stauton remembered**  
The annual summer celebration by the Stauton Society in honour of Howard Stauton, the only British player who could ever have claimed to be world champion, takes place at the Athenaeum, London on the evening of Tuesday July 7. Guest speaker will be Professor George Slemer. Those interested in attending should contact Brian Clivaz on 0171-467 5406.

**Times final**  
Today, the final of *The Times* British Schools Championship takes place at London's Tower Theatre Hotel. There will be a full report on Monday.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

**Central Park**  
Godolphin's third string for the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown tomorrow after Daylami and Faithful Son, was yesterday backed at long odds with the sponsor. He is quoted at 25-1.

**Nuclear Debate** is Coral's clear favourite for the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood on August 1 after sustained support yesterday. The Lynda Ramsden-trained son of Gelfin Counter, who landed the Gosforth Park Cup at Newcastle, is the firm's 14-1 market leader.



Solution on page 47

## WEDNESDAY'S LATE RACING

### Yarmouth

Going: good to soft







## WORLD CUP 98

## Awaiting second coming of Zidane

WHEN a man is made a sporting god, he often comes crashing down from the rooftops. It happened to Zinedine Zidane, the France playmaker who, having served his two-match suspension for showing petulance similar to that which shamed David Beckham, returns to the Stade de France this evening.

Zidane is thus reprieved within the tournament, whereas poor Beckham must wait until autumn at the earliest before he can begin his atonement for England.

And in the creative mind of Rob de Jong, a Dutch photographer, the image of Zidane as lord of the French domain became startling. De Jong saw a billboard as big as a house in the poorest quarter of St-Denis, where the new national stadium has been built, and from the streets nearby, he took a photograph that gave the impression of Zidane hovering over the rooftops. Moreover, around the corner, was a café, a greasy spoon eating house, owned and run by Algerian immigrants: Zidane is the son of Algerian immigrants, from Marseilles.

So, while Beckham is fighting off photographers in New York, Zidane will today fill their lenses in his attempt to inspire France to victory against Italy in their World Cup quarter-final. It will be a contest of the highest passion, with Zidane, a resident of Turin, where he performs his club duty with Juventus, likely to be marked by Dino Baggio. Some contest that will be, but surely no more intriguing than other head-to-head clashes involving Christian Vieri, the joint leading goalscorer in the tournament with five, against Marcel Desailly, the new Chelsea defender, who has been among the most redoubtable tacklers in the tournament to date.

Lilian Thuram, magnificent for France as an attacking right back, must be disciplined as he seeks to deny freedom of space to Alessandro Del Piero. Paolo Maldini against Thierry Henry is just another of the fascinating duels that will engage the minds of the 80,000 people in the national stadium.

Watching too, but moving every muscle, imagining himself the guardian of every ball, will be Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, and father of Paolo, hoping in his 66th involvement with an Italian

ROB HUGHES



in Paris

national side, to achieve his 39th international victory with a win for the Azzurri of Italy, over "Les Bleus" of France. If it ends in defeat for the host nation, however, you can imagine what disdain France will have for its footballers and above all, for Zidane, the most glittering of them.

Moving north later in the evening, at least one man will project serenity. Bo Johansson, the avuncular coach of Denmark, achieves something we have not seen on any training ground other than his own in this 32-nation event: he

side a youngster of the quickness and quality of Martin Jorgensen.

"He's been playing magnificently," Brian Laudrup said. "He has lots of skill, he likes to dribble as well, and we will see him not only on Friday, but in years to come."

Releasing a player such as Jorgensen could unbalance the control that Brazil has so far exercised. For much of their impetus comes from Roberto Carlos, the most dynamic and cavalier left back that the world has seen. How can he forage forward with such freedom when there is a dashing young winger forever seeking the spaces behind him?

Then there is the inevitable contest of mind and body between Peter Schmeichel, for many the finest goalkeeper in the world, and Ronaldo, for almost all the most handsomely gifted striker on the planet.

Ronaldo has scored 29 times in 39 internationals and is hungry to improve that ratio. He has missed training sessions this week because of tendonitis in his left knee, however, which will not prevent him starting, but has visibly inhibited his movement and that precious pace.

It is not Ronaldo, but his strike partner Bebeto, whose form troubles Brazil. Dunga, their captain, became involved in a heated

exchange with the forward on the field and is not alone in thinking that the man who was a spearhead of the 1994 World Cup winning team may have been recalled for one tournament too many.

Dunga and Bebeto are the same age, 34, but while Brazil's industrious captain has lost none of his tenacity and his fire for the battle in midfield, Bebeto has failed to read Ronaldo and, despite scoring twice, still failed to impress.

Bebeto has scored 40 times in 70 internationals. I suspect Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, who insists that Bebeto still moves splendidly, will again prefer him at the start to Denilson, the coltish winger, who every time he has come on as a substitute, has thrilled the crowd and lifted the team to a new dimension.

Zidane chasing redemption in the afternoon: Ronaldo seeking to fulfil his potential in the evening: what a date to relish and help to make up for England's departure from the tournament.



Zidane's image hovers over the rundown terraced houses of St-Denis like a guardian angel. He carries the nation's hopes tonight as he returns to the France side. Photograph: Rob de Jong

## Maldini likely to stick by Del Piero

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN PARIS

ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO will start against the hosts at the Stade de France and Roberto Baggio may or may not replace him at some point in the game. This is said to be the unshakable decision of Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach. Whether it will prove to be the correct one is debatable.

Del Piero is wholly relaxed about it, seemingly untroubled by the fact that, as he admits, he missed several good chances in Italy's last match, against Norway. "I didn't miss my chances in the second half because the supporters were wanting Baggio," he said. "Scoring against France wouldn't give me back my confidence. It would give me more confidence, which is not the same thing."

"Today, people are saying I'm not the man for the big occasion, because I've lost two European Cup finals with Juventus. But it was not so long ago... that you were all saying the opposite."

Bold words, but they pose a fundamental question, because Baggio looks a much more dangerous and effective player than Del Piero, a better partner for the powerful Christian Vieri, who is bound to worry the France defence with his power and pace. The French are proud of that defence, even though Laurent Blanc, scorer of their "golden goal" against Paraguay, looked curiously ill at ease in its centre for much of the preceding game.

Vieri hopes that, on the day of the final, he will give himself the finest birthday present conceivable: a victory for Italy, who won the equivalent match here in Paris 60 years ago. "France are strong," Vieri said. "Zidane is a special player, though we can beat them. They will feel the pressure. The way Cesare Maldini likes [is] to boost the attack, but it's the defence which enables you to win."

It is a defence that should probably be capable of coping with a France attack that, despite some effective performances against weaker opposition in the earlier games, and some incisive right-wing play by Thierry Henry, looked its old, impotent self against Paraguay. Henry, who faded in that game, has been passed fit after recovering from an ankle injury.

Fabio Cannavaro, who will no doubt be relieved not to face again such a player as Tore Andre Flo — so tall, yet so dangerous on the ground — said: "I'm hoping that the French manager, Jacquet, persists in his mistake. If he played Thuram [Cannavaro's team-mate at Parma] at centre back, Lilian will be the best stopper in the world. Played at right back, he loses 50 per cent of his potential. Better for us, then."

The Italians are curiously confident. Curiously, because they have not played consistently well in any of their four games. They were extremely lucky to save the match against Chile, had a sterile spell

QUARTER-FINALS	
TODAY	
ITALY: FRANCE 3.30pm, Stade de France, TV, RSL/Talk	
BRAZIL: DENMARK 8pm, Nantes, TV, RSL/Talk	
TOMORROW	
HOLLAND: ARGENTINA 3.30pm, Marseilles, BECL, RSL/Talk	
GERMANY: CROATIA 8pm, Lyons, BECL, RSL/Talk	
SEMI-FINALS	
Winner Marseilles	Winner Nantes
Winner Stade de France	Winner Lyons

against Cameroon's ten men, started slowly against Austria and ultimately lost the plot against Norway. Moreover, Maldini still has problems with his midfield, despite the impressive emergence of Luigi Di Biagio.

Demetrio Albertini was given another chance against Norway, but once again failed to take it, even if his was the excellent pass that gave Del Piero one of his three missed opportunities. But whom to put in Albertini's place? Pessotto, the converted wing back, as against Austria, or will Maldini deploy not only Francesco Moriero on the right flank but Moriero's rival, Angelo di Livio, on the opposite side?

Moriero has been a sporadic figure in this tournament, yet Cannavaro sees him as the key man. "I really believe that Moriero is our player who can always come up with new inventions, to give games those moments which can tip the balance," he said. "I think France v Italy is a game tense with emotion. What will decide it will be the incidents. And to bring about the winning incident, all it needs is a contribution from Moriero."

## Laudrup ready for memorable final departure

FROM DAVID POWELL

MICHAEL LAUDRUP, whose brilliant form against Nigeria in the second round steered Denmark towards the World Cup quarter-finals, plays his last game for his country today. Either that or the tournament will witness its greatest upset.

Surprise results have been scarce. Norway's victory over Brazil was not the shock that it would have been, had the champions not already secured top place in their group, and Denmark's defeat of Nigeria was a minor upset. However, a leading bookmaker has been quoting Denmark at 13-2 against beating Brazil in Nantes this evening.

Laudrup retires from international football after the tournament and will make his 104th appearance today while Peter Schmeichel, the Denmark goalkeeper, makes a record 105th. "Whatever the result, it will be a memorable game for me," Laudrup said yesterday.

This is Denmark's first World Cup quarter-final, Brazil's eleventh. "We will need to close them down because they are lethal on the counter-attack," Leonardo, the inspirational Brazil midfielder player, said. Taffarel, the goalkeeper, and Dunga, will equal Jairzinho's national record of 16 matches played in World Cup finals.

The bookmakers may be against Denmark, but history is not. These countries have met three times, Denmark winning twice. "Brazil are a complete team, but we are strong in defence and midfield and perhaps we will be the great surprise of the World Cup, as we were when we won Euro 92," Per Frandsen, the Bolton Wanderers and Denmark midfielder player, said.

Denmark (probable, 4-3-2-1): P. Schmeichel — S. Colding, M. Rasmussen, J. Holm, J. Helmer — M. Jorgensen, T. Helveg, A. Nielsen — B. Laudrup, M. Laudrup — P. Moller.

Brazil (probable, 4-4-2): C. Taffarel — Cafu, Junior Balano, Aldair, Roberto Carlos — Cleber Santana, Leonardo, Dunga, Rivaldo — Bebeto, Ronaldo.

Referee: G. Grondin (Spain)

## Boghossian in line to take Petit's place

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

FRANCE'S hopes of reaching the semi-finals rest heavily on the shoulders of Zinedine Zidane. Guilty of a crude foul in the match against Saudi Arabia, he has missed the past two matches but this should leave him fresher, if slightly short of match practice. The problem for France, though, remains one of relative impotence in attack.

Granted that Zidane, even if Italy mark him as they are expected to do, can provide the passes lacking against Paraguay, who is going to exploit them? David Trezeguet? He has already been complaining of a lack of service from another Frenchman notionally capable of deciding the game, Youri Djorkaeff. But Djorkaeff, he says, may be excused on the grounds that he is really a spearhead player.

Whether Djorkaeff will be used remains in the balance. On Trezeguet, the burden is substantial. "I'm 20 years old," he said, "and I am still learning. We do have great players. We have been trying to go through the middle, when we need to go down the flanks if the space is closed down."

The heart and soul of the France defence is emphatically Marcel Desailly, who has shrugged off his disappointing season with AC Milan to become the central pillar of his team's rearguard. Life will be marking Christian Vieri, the competition's joint leading scorer, which is no mean task.

Another fitness worry for France is Emmanuel Petit, who played in that match although he knew beforehand that he had a painful thigh strain. It looks probable that he will give way to Alain Boghossian, who had an excellent season for Sampdoria.

France (probable, 4-2-3-1): L. Blanc — L. Thuram, M. Desailly — T. Henry (or R. Pires), D. Deschamps, A. Boghossian (or E. Petit), Z. Zidane, B. Lacombe — D. Trezeguet, Y. Djorkaeff, G. Sarradell.

Italy (probable, 4-3-2-1): G. Pagliuca — G. Sgarbi — A. Costacurra, F. Cannavaro — F. Moriero, L. Di Biagio, D. Baggio, G. Pesotto (or A. di Livio), P. Maldini — C. Vieri, R. Baggio.

Referee: H. Dalida (Scotland)

## Fifa positive about test results

## WORLD CUP DIARY

FIFA, the sport's world governing body, moved swiftly yesterday to quash rumours that an Argentina player had failed a drugs test, after the second round match against England in Saint-Etienne on Tuesday night. Keith Cooper, FIFA's director of communications, said: "No player has tested positive for drugs during this World Cup."

Two players from each country have been tested after each of the group and second-round matches. That adds up to 224 tests and not one has proved positive," Cooper said.

Ariel Ortega and Matias Almeyda, of Argentina, and

Graeme Le Saux and Alan Shearer, of England, were tested on Tuesday night.

ERIC CANTONA, the former Manchester United striker, is to play in a charity match in Paris on July 11 in aid of the family of the pendarmie who was seriously injured during rioting by German hooligans in Lens.

FOR once, Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, may be right to claim that he has been misquoted.

On the France 98 website, after the England defeat, he was reported as saying: "I'm English so I'm very disappointed."

AMID the outpouring of emotion on Tuesday night, the waiting of BBC executives was possibly the most audible. Not so much that ITV had probably attracted a viewing record of 26 million, but because the corporation had almost certainly lost the chance of winning the ratings war. The Beeb had first choice of the quarter-finals, and would have chosen England. Now it has little chance of usurping ITV.

Italy vs France.

(It's bound to end in beers).

Nastro Azzurro, would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's numero uno beer, you can imagine who we hope will be sipping into their drinks at the final whistle. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Ferroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.



## BOWLS

## Victories by England and Wales stir series

By David R. Jones

UNEXPECTED victories for England, who beat the defending champions Scotland 138-101, and Wales, who defeated Ireland 123-101, opened up the home international series at Ayr Northfield yesterday.

Scotland, England and Ireland have everything to play for today. England, four points ahead of the Scots, have an excellent chance of boosting their points total against the Channel Islands, who have won only two rinks in three matches.

For England, David Cutler scored a massive 29-8 win over Willie Wood, who will be making his 100th international appearance for Scotland today, while Danny Denison skipped his rink to a 26-6 win over Richard Corsie.

Ireland, who beat England on Monday, managed to return only one winning card against Wales, and seem to have blown their chances.

Earlier, Neil Chandler, from the Victory Park club, Stroud, had won the British Isles Under-25 singles title, beating Neil Molloy, of Guernsey, 21-18, in the final.

Chandler, who led 9-4 after nine ends, was caught at 14-14 before he got home with a double and a single.

**UNDER-25 SINGLES:** Neil Chandler (Stroud, England) 21-18 Neil Molloy (Guernsey). **CHAMPIONSHIP:** England 138-101 Scotland (Ayr Northfield); Wales 123-101 Ireland (Ayr Northfield). **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** England 138-101 Scotland (Ayr Northfield); Wales 123-101 Ireland (Ayr Northfield). **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** England 138-101 Scotland (Ayr Northfield); Wales 123-101 Ireland (Ayr Northfield).

## GOLF

## Montgomerie thrives on Irish challenge

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT DRUID'S GLEN

TO HAVE observed Colin Montgomerie in the US Open two weeks ago and the Murphy's Irish Open yesterday is to be reminded of the extremes between which Europe's leading golfers swing. On the uneven slopes of the Olympic Club in San Francisco, Montgomerie often looked fidgety and ill at ease and he was the object of some graceless and inaccurate attacks both in print and in voice. Not surprisingly his golf was not at perfect pitch.

At Druid's Glen in Newtownmountkennedy, a mouthful of a place 20 miles south of Dublin, the man who had competed in the US Open had been replaced by a happy and relaxed model. Whereas in San Francisco Montgomerie appeared to have every care in the world, particularly on the Friday afternoon when he was heckled, here he looked like a man out for a friendly three-ball in the club's monthly medal.

Later, on the practice ground, to where he repaired after his round of 65, good enough to give him a three-stroke lead, he tried out several drivers with 7½ degrees of loft. As he did so, there was banter with those around him, both at his expense and generated by him.

It helped Montgomerie's demeanour on the first day of this event that he was playing just about as well as he could. He needed to, because Pat Ruddy had lengthened the course he designed to more than 7,000 yards. The fairways have been narrowed and the rough, nourished by spring rain, is penal.

Though Montgomerie hit his opening drive into the rough, that was the last mistake that would cost him a stroke. A missed putt from eight feet on this hole might have brought out a display of grumpiness but the sight of

Padraig Harrington, one playing partner, three-putting from three feet on the same hole probably put Montgomerie's miss into perspective.

If that did not, then some of Harrington's or Severiano Ballesteros's travails later on probably did. Ballesteros had a nine on the par-five 13th and a six on the 15th, two of the more difficult holes, before blazing home with birdies on the 16th and 18th for a 78. Harrington, however, continues to struggle. "I did not swing very well, did not chip very well and was very weak mentally," Harrington said after his 81, ten over par.

Montgomerie drove long and straight with the three-wood, which has a loft of only 13 degrees and which he used on all but two of the driving holes. On both the 15th and 16th, he hit his tee-shots with this club nearly 290 yards. But it is not just with his woods that he has found extra length as he hit a seven-iron nearly 200 yards on the 5th.

One man whose play approached the quality of Montgomerie's was Sergio Garcia, the amateur, who somehow gouged five birdies from the rock-face of eight holes starting at the 11th and had two more later on. Garcia had successive bogeys near the end of his round that rather took the bloom from his score but a 68 was, nevertheless, exceptional scoring by the 18-year-old.

"He seems to be semi-pro already," Montgomerie said of Garcia. "I don't think he goes to school very often." Garcia formally left school two weeks ago but missed the last month of term in order to compete in the Amateur. Which he won, and in the United States. The world appears to be at his feet, just as it was, on this day at least, for Montgomerie.



Montgomerie plays his second shot on the 1st out of the rough in his round of 65 at Druid's Glen yesterday

## Dogged Davies takes early lead

LAURA DAVIES is great because she does things her way. Yesterday, in the early stages of the first round of the US Women's Open Championship here at Blackwolf Run, she had a birdie three at the last hole to finish with a 68, three under par. On a course to rank with the toughest, she led by a shot from Leslie Spaulding, of Billings, Montana, and Se Ri Pak, of South Korea.

It was encouraging to see Mhairi McKay, the Stanford-educated Scot from Turnberry, return a 72. A qualifier who has been struggling in her first season on the US tour, McKay three-putted four times and dropped a shot at the last, but compensated with birdies at the 5th, 6th, 16th and 17th.

Davies has spent most of the year moaning about her putting and how short the courses were becoming. She had been performing so badly that her form was non-existent. In her previous six outings in the United States she had missed the cut four

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN KOHLER, WISCONSIN

times, with her best finish a share of 28th place. "What's wrong with Laura?" was a recurring question, but on the early evidence yesterday the answer was "Not much".

Clad in her trademark black, Davies loped out ahead of the field with birdies at the 5th, a par-four that caused others a lot of trouble, at the short 6th and at the 10th, one of the par-fives that are ending this course to the Englishwoman, whose big hitting is one of her fortes.

"It's very generous off the tee, which is good for me," she said. "There is also a high percentage in accuracy with my irons into the green and I always pride myself on being pretty good with my irons. I like the way the course sets up and it is great to be back on fast, undulating greens."

Alison Nicholas, the defending champion, was five over par with two

to play, having fallen foul of the 5th, where she had a double bogey six. There is a stream snaking its way around the green — although not in front — and there is little margin for error. Nicholas hit her second shot into the water on the left, moments after Liselotte Neumann, her Solheim Cup colleague from Sweden, had gone into the water on the right.

Neumann also took six to go to one over, but Annika Sorenstam, her fellow Swede, took seven to splash to two over. No wonder the hole is a happy hunting ground for the chocolate Labrador and perky beagle that snuffle out thousands of balls for the man who operates the lucrative lost-ball concession here.

**EARLY LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated):** Laura Davies (GB) 68; L. Spaulding (USA) 69; Se Ri Pak (KOR) 70; J. Spaulding (USA) 71; D. Coon-Jones (CAN) 72; C. Koon (SWE) 73; A. Finney (USA) 74; M. L. Smith (USA) 75; M. L. Smith (USA) 76; M. L. Smith (USA) 77; M. L. Smith (USA) 78; M. L. Smith (USA) 79; M. L. Smith (USA) 80; M. L. Smith (USA) 81; M. L. Smith (USA) 82; M. L. Smith (USA) 83; M. L. Smith (USA) 84; M. L. Smith (USA) 85; M. L. Smith (USA) 86; M. L. Smith (USA) 87; M. L. Smith (USA) 88; M. L. Smith (USA) 89; M. L. Smith (USA) 90; M. L. Smith (USA) 91; M. L. Smith (USA) 92; M. L. Smith (USA) 93; M. L. Smith (USA) 94; M. L. Smith (USA) 95; M. L. Smith (USA) 96; M. L. Smith (USA) 97; M. L. Smith (USA) 98; M. L. Smith (USA) 99; M. L. Smith (USA) 100; M. L. Smith (USA) 101; M. L. Smith (USA) 102; M. L. Smith (USA) 103; M. L. Smith (USA) 104; M. L. Smith (USA) 105; M. L. Smith (USA) 106; M. L. Smith (USA) 107; M. L. Smith (USA) 108; M. L. Smith (USA) 109; M. L. 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## CRICKET: BOWLERS TAKEN TO TASK AT OLD TRAFFORD

## Kallis tightens grip on England

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of five. South Africa won toss; South Africa have scored 237 for one wicket against England)

TEN days of grand plans and good intentions were undone in a matter of hours at Old Trafford yesterday. England, desperate to heal the wounds of their mortifying defeat at Lord's, lost a toss they most urgently needed to win and suffered a day of helpless acquiescence as Jacques Kallis led South Africa to a position of command.

Kallis, whose influence on this side is growing by the game, made his second Test century and shared an unbroken stand of 212, a record for South Africa on this ground, with the adhesive Gary Kirsten, who will resume this morning on 98. It was the second time in the series that only one wicket has fallen on the opening day but conditions here were incomparably better than at Edgbaston; the worry, for England, is that they might not stay that way.

England had reacted to a dry, grassless pitch by choosing both their spinners but if any slow bowler is to win this match now it will surely be Paul Adams. Already, the ball is turning, even for the finger spinners of England. As the pitch wears, Adams' wrist spin will be a more formidable proposition and unless he bowls inadequately, or England bat uncommonly well,

there is a real prospect that South Africa will take a 2-0 lead in this Cornhill series.

England's preferred seam attack, denied to them for so long, threatened only briefly with each of two new balls. Otherwise, the ball beat the bat on no more than a handful of occasions. England did not help themselves with some sloppy ground fielding, and the spilling of three technical chances, but the pitch was placid and South Africa capitalised.

The occasion appeared to leave Manchester unmoved, a commentary on the plight of both the England team and the English game. The ground was barely half full and the atmosphere deliberately subdued by restrictions on alcohol and fancy dress — was maudlin. It was a day reminiscent, in pace and passive nature, of 1970s Tests against India or New Zealand, except that, then, one generally felt England would not lose.

In its lack of action, character and crowd response, this was a thoroughly depressing day for English cricket, a further stark warning that a submissive national team cannot forever command loyalty. Tickets for the fifth Test, at Headingley, are selling only slowly and there is a growing air of anxiety over the finances and implications of what was always going to be a difficult summer.

South Africa will care little for such matters. After their poor

start at Edgbaston, they have imposed a grip that will take some shifting. They are missing Shaun Pollock here, because of a strained left thigh, but it may not stop them.

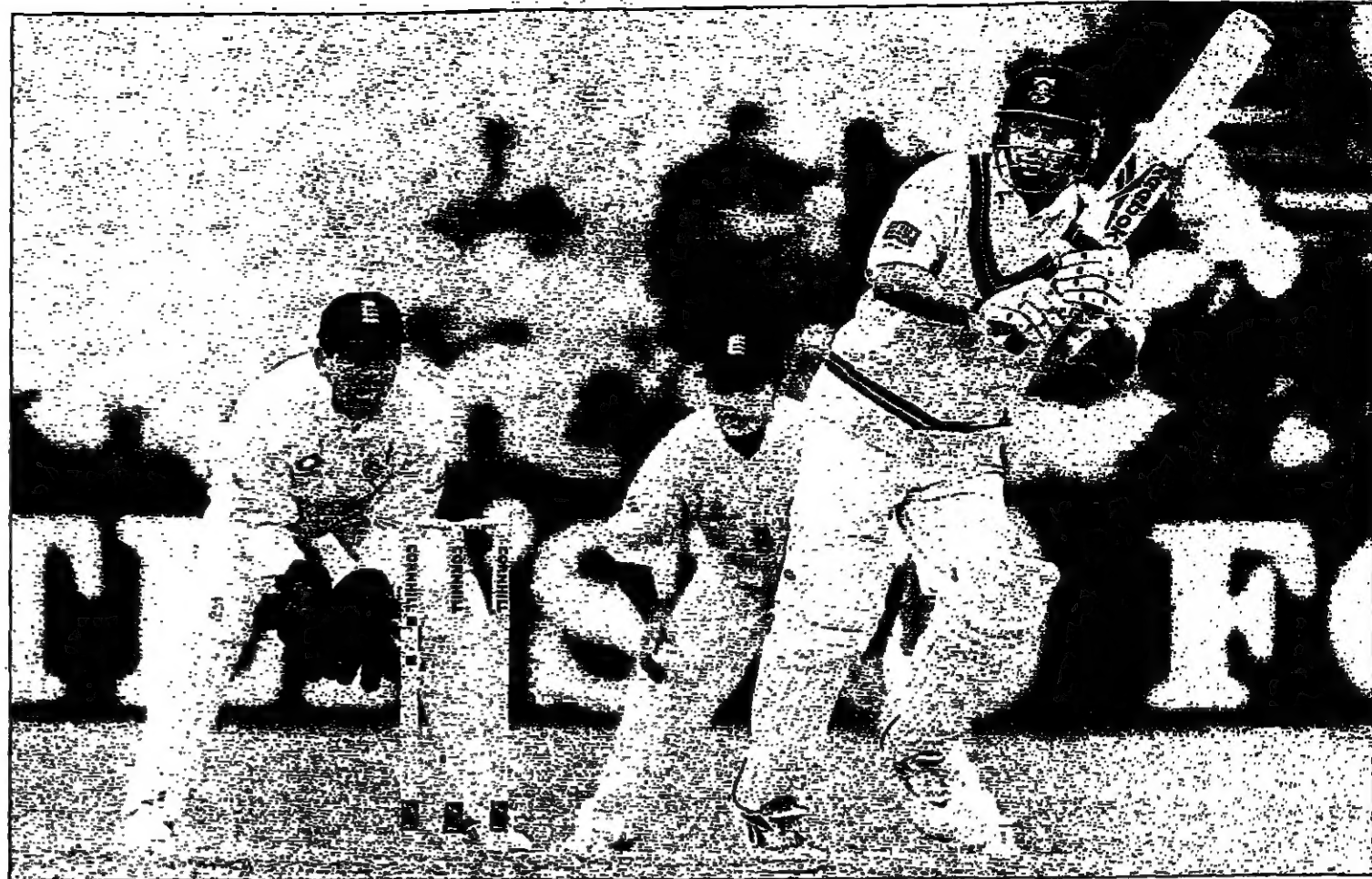
The substitution of Makhaya Ntini for Pollock was one of two changes forced upon the visitors. Liebenberg standing in for the injured Bacher, England chose their final XI on instinct and, while there was general disappointment over the omission of Ben Hollis, it was probably the correct move for the conditions — or would have been if Alex Stewart had won the toss.

Gough and Cork were together with the new ball at last but there was no red carpet for them. The morning was cloudy and cool, the pitch was stubbornly slow and unresponsive and only the occasional ball swung. Liebenberg lost his off stump to a good one from Gough, which drifted late, but England's line of attack was not sufficiently consistent to cause problems.

Kirsten seemed to have had a reprieve when he glowed a ball from Cork down the leg side and Stewart could only palm it away, but the award of leg-byes suggested the decision would have gone against England anyway. Well before lunch, Stewart had resorted to a more defensive formation and, at 12.45pm, he employed spin at both ends. Ashley Giles having his first bowl in Test cricket.

Through the day, Giles was tidy but unpenetrative, a remark that applied equally to Croft. Hussain, who had displaced Rampakrish at cover for the seamers, returned to slip for the spin attack and two half-chances came his way as Kirsten, on 24, cut at Giles and Kallis, on 76, edged Croft's arm ball. Neither chance stuck and nor, later, did a return catch to Giles from a powerful drive by Kirsten.

It was a typical Kirsten innings — unimpressive, largely unmemorable but grimly efficient. Kallis will always play more expansively but even he batted within pragmatic limits. It was a measure of the day that only six runs in his century were scored between mid-off and mid-on. It was not, in any sense, a day to lift the spirits.



Kirsten, who batted throughout a grim day at Old Trafford for his unbeaten 98, flicks a ball from Croft for runs on the leg side

## Sign of the times in Neville's visit

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Old Trafford

It is easy to spot symbols, and not be absolutely certain what they portend, but the conjunction of events at Old Trafford yesterday afternoon seem as significant as any. Ashley Giles had just come on for his first bowl in Test cricket and, as he wheeled away, Philip Neville was pinned against the entrance to the Victorian pavilion by a gaggle of young autograph hunters.

The whole world knows that football is king, particularly at the height of a World Cup summer in which it has been almost compulsory to pay attention. Here was the evidence. Neville, the Manchester United defender, who was left out of the England World Cup party, scribbled away busily while a young man who is considered good enough for another of England's national sides tried his best to dismiss a pair of stubborn South Africa batsmen without ever suggesting he could.

It might have been very different. Neville was considered such a gifted batting prospect as a teenager that Lancashire wanted to offer him a contract. "Obviously 12 grand a year wasn't good enough for him," one of the club's committee members said in jest yesterday. These days Neville earns that much a week.

Never has the chasm that separates the winter and the summer game been more apparent, a chasm formed by financial clout and public awareness. Indeed, as this match began in a fog of indifference, it was permissible to ask just what does it mean to the general public?

For the pivotal Test of the series, in the first week of July, the ground was half empty. Take away the members, sponsors and their guests, and a troupe of schoolchildren who flooded the field at lunchtime, and it was hard to see too many others. Whole swathes of the public seats were empty.

There was no sense of occasion and, even though Lancashire officials expect the crowd today to be half as big again as the 11,200 who attended yesterday, the spectators

should not expect to see anything that knocks 'em dead in the aisles. On a pitch as slow as this South Africa could bat the day out comfortably, and they probably will.

The problem goes deeper than a bad day, or a bad series. This England team has some good players. What it lacks is a public identity. With the exception of Gough, who is seen as a colourful character, there is no real identification with them. For one very obvious thing,

they lose more games than they win. English cricket has had these difficulties before. Neville Cardus wrote of walking round Lord's during a county match in the 1920s, and finding a group of boys messing about behind the Grand Stand. "Why aren't you watching the cricket?" he asked. "When I was your age I wouldn't have missed a ball."

"There aren't any more Comptons", one of them replied.

"No more Comptons". More pertinently, there are no Warners, Tendulkars or Laras. The key to public identification is always turned by the stars, of whom Botham and Gower were the last Englishmen. How many young boys dream of making a five-hour hundred when Michael Owen fulfils their dreams by running half the length of the field to score heroically? That, in a nutshell, is what cricket is up against.

Slowly, people are coming to terms with the changing world, and perceptions are changing with it. Jim Cumber, the chief executive of Lancashire and one of the last cricketer-footballers, visited the press box in the afternoon and, hard as he tried to suppress it, a note of despair kept creeping in.

We've done everything we can: that was the gist of his address. We've tried to amend the game from within, for the benefit of the Test team, and tried to sell it to the public. "I'm glad I'm 54 now, and not 20 years younger", he said. It sounded desperate, like a man who sees the sand shifting in the glass, but he is absolutely right.

## SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

South Africa won toss

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten not out, 10 (100 runs)

G F J Liebenberg b Gough, 16

(35 runs, 29 balls, 3 fours)

J H Kallis not out, 117

(326 runs, 234 balls, 15 fours)

Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 1, nb 2) 6

Total (1 wk, 97 overs, 382 mins) 237

D J Cullinan, W J Cronje, J N Rhodes, M V Boucher, L Klusener, P R Adams, A Donald and M Ntini to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-25 (Kirsten 7)

BOWLING: Gough 20-1-64-1 (nb 3, w 1)

6 runs; 7-1-13-1, 3-0-18-0, 6-0-22-0, 4-0-

11-0; Croft 18-3-61-0 (6 runs, 5-1-17-0,

4-2-5-0, 6-0-22-0, 3-0-7-0); Fraser 13-6-

19-0 (2 runs, 8-4-9-0, 5-1-10-0); Croft 24-

7-42-0 (4 runs, 5-1-11-0, 15-4-25-0, 4-2-

6-0); Giles 17-4-41-0 (6 runs, 3-0-28-0,

8-4-13-0); Rampakrish 5-0-17-0 (2

runs, 2-0-4-0, 3-0-13-0)

SCORING NOTES: First Day: Lunch:

59-1 (31 overs, 120 mins; Kirsten 24, Kallis

151, Toss 152-1 (63 overs, 238 mins;

Kirsten 80, Kallis 71). Second new ball

taken at 5.31pm — South Africa 219-1

(90 overs)

ENGLAND: N V Knight, M A Atherton, M

Hussain, \*A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, M R

Rampakrish, D G Croft, R D B Croft, A F

Giles, A R C Fraser and D Gough

Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and

P Willey

Third umpire: D J Constant

Match referee: Javed Burki (Pakistan)

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Edgbaston):

Match drawn. Second Test (Lord's):

South Africa won by 10 wickets

To Come: Fourth Test (Trent Bridge):

July 25-27. Fifth Test (Headingley):

August 6-10

Compiled by Bill Frindall

## Durham put in their place

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DARLINGTON (second day of four): Durham, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 312 runs behind Leicestershire

THE Britannic Assurance county championship season is at the stage where the table offers a fair indication of the ability of each county. Where these two sides are concerned, however, there is an anomaly. Leicestershire, fifth, are far better equipped than Durham, a place above them before this round of matches, to challenge for the title.

This became more apparent by the over at Feethams yesterday as the visitors extended their first-innings score to 414 and then removed the first five Durham batsmen for 58. Durham still need 163 to avoid the

follow-on, and must show considerably more resolve and composure against the swinging ball if this game is to go into a fourth day.

Maddy, resuming with a flourish, took his championship best to 162 in exactly seven hours and his fifth-wicket stand with Aftab Habib to 209, before Betts knocked back his off stump with a quicker ball. Wickets fell relatively quickly thereafter, including Habib for an attractive 96, attempting to drive on the walk against Wood, who persevered for figures of five for 104.

Durham began dreadfully. Chris Lewis pined Jon Lewis leg-before on the back foot first ball and Morris endured a

torrid period against the menacing left-arm of Mullaaly. He required 46 balls and 63 minutes to get off the mark, surviving appeals for both leg-before and a catch behind before working Lewis to the boundary.

That Mullaaly should complete a fine nine-over spell with the new ball wicketless seemed a gross injustice. Instead, Phil Simmons set the collapse in motion by ending Morris's tortuous innings in the first over after tea.

Speak missed a straight ball from Simmons and Boon played on. Collingwood, mysteriously given the lavish movement, shouldered arms to Simmons. Daley has been dropped by Lewis and Nixon, but at least he is still there, with 22 to his name.

## Stephenson steadies Hampshire innings

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 164 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

TWENTY wickets had fallen for 360 runs, many of them given up with insufficient struggle, before John Stephenson buckled down to set Hampshire an example at Southampton (John Thirkess writes).

At the close of play, four and a half hours later, when he was 13 short of his first 100 of the season, Hampshire had reason to be grateful. Eight ahead on first innings through wicketful Gloucestershire batting, they had the makings of a win that would

lift them into the top half of the table. Stephenson shared partnerships of 60 with White for the first wicket and an unbroken one of 96 with Whitaker for the second.

With eight of the original 12 sessions left when Hampshire's second innings started, and conditions favouring the bat even more than on the first day, Stephenson's steady batting was plainly the right strategy.

Overnight, Gloucestershire, at 91 for four, were well placed to take a handy lead when Hancock and Hewson were still batting after 40 minutes. Then Hancock fished at a wide ball, was caught — and 115 for four became 176 all out in another 80 minutes.

## Salisbury gamble pays off

BY PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA (second day of four): Glamorgan, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 188 runs ahead of Surrey

IT WILL not have made England feel any better last night when they heard that Ian Salisbury, the leg-spinner who could have made so much difference to their attack at Old Trafford, had taken four wickets in his first bowl for more than three weeks. He turned this absorbing contest away from Glamorgan, the county champions, and towards Surrey, the leading challengers for their title.

If it is any consolation, Salisbury, who tore a muscle in his groin in the Benson and Hedges Cup against Leicestershire, admitted that he was

still a long way from being fit enough for a Test match and was only playing here because Surrey were prepared to risk him. Their gamble paid off on a much fresher day beside the sea at St Helen's, which made spin rather than swing the more potent weapon on a pitch that has dried out in the sun and wind.

While Surrey could call on a wrist spinner in Salisbury and a finger spinner in Saqlain, Glamorgan will have to rely solely on Cocker, the former England Under-19 left-arm, in the absence of Croft, who is playing at Old Trafford.

It was hard work for the Glamorgan seamers yesterday trying to get through the remnants of the Surrey first innings. The last four wickets added 92. Batty playing resolutely for his 30 and Saqlain hitting out boldly to make 25.

This left the match beautifully poised with Surrey just two runs ahead and, after Bicknell had pinned James leg-before for the second time in the match with a ball that came back at him, it became a fascinating duel between the bat and the burning ball.

Maynard played another captain's innings in the unfamiliar role of opener and Dale helped him put on 78 for the second wicket. Once Dale had been caught at slip off Saqlain, however, the rest could not cope with Salisbury, who dismissed Powell, Cotley and Butcher in quick succession before claiming the crucial wicket of Maynard.

## informative:

With effect from 3 July 1998 the following interest rates will apply:

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	From	To	% EAR	% EAR
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Agreed overdraft for balances over £250	15.00%	18.00%	18.40%	17.8%
Unauthorised overdraft	25.20%	28.3%	26.16%	28.5%
Premier Cheque Account				
	From	To	% EAR	% EAR
Overdraft Rate	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.
Agreed overdraft for balances up to £10,000	10.25%	10.7%	10.50%	11.0%
Unauthorised overdraft	25.20%	28.3%	26.16%	28.5%
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## Read in control as Middlesex feel the strain

BY BARNEY SPENDER

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 215 runs behind Nottinghamshire

A DELIGHTFUL maiden first-class fifty from Chris Read rescued a tedious day and moved Nottinghamshire into a position from which they ought to secure their first home win against county opposition this season.

Read, 19, who is only 5ft 8in and has the bashful demeanour of a lovestruck schoolboy, has already been earmarked as a future England wicketkeeper but, batting at No 9, he showed considerable promise with the bat as he scored 76 and dominated a partnership of 96 with Paul Strang.

Tidy and compact, Read began confidently against the second new ball, albeit against some tired bowlers, and worked it around the field with some cunning. When Phil Tufnell tried to tie him down by bowling over the wicket into the rough, he responded with a deft reverse sweep that was enough to persuade Tufnell to give up the experiment.

His fifty came from 81 balls and included eight fours, and he struck another four boundaries before edging a lifting delivery from Chris Bait to Brown behind the stumps. It was Bait's fifth wicket of the innings and, when he bowled Strang for 40, it gave him six for 101, an excellent return on his championship debut.

Apart from its entertainment value, Read's late contribution also gave Nottinghamshire an important impetus after they had spent much of the day labouring for runs. Graeme Archer made a cultured 51, his fifth fifty in his past six innings, and Usman Afzaal took the best part of six hours over a painstaking 73.

## Bold decision gives Oxford fighting chance

BY JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (second day of three): Cambridge University, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 279 runs ahead of Oxford University

IT WAS 3pm, Oxford, chiefly in the person of Mark Wagh, were scoring freely enough and batting with sufficient soundness to be in contention for a lead on the first innings by the end of the day. Speculation as to where the game would go from there was rife. A former Cambridge captain was speaking. "When did anyone last give the other side anything in the university match?" he asked.

Almost on cue, out came the drinks and with them animated discussions between Fulton, the Oxford captain, who was batting, and Anurag Singh of Cambridge. An over later, Oxford declared 114 runs adrift, leaving Wagh undefeated on 78. It had been agreed that Cambridge would aim to set something of the order of 330 for Oxford to make on the last day.

Cambridge went like a train towards their objective, while Oxford bowled properly to an attacking field. Mather picked up a career best five for 67 as Cambridge collapsed after House and Singh had set about the bowling in a partnership worth 70 from 70 balls. It was something of a mercy for the Light Blues when bad light stopped play 15 minutes early.

No matter how the Cambridge tail fares this morning, an excellent last day is in prospect. Yesterday's was full of good things, not least, Wagh's innings. Mather's persistent bowling and House's onslaught, which brought him 44 from 39 balls. House had also taken the wicket of Molins, remarkable only in that it improved his career record from two wickets for 800 runs to three for 819.

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# No knickers get women's issues in a twist

We are getting so used to nostalgia drama set in an idealised version of the Fifties or early Sixties that it makes a refreshing change to get Fay Weldon's version of the later era when it all started to go wrong. If *Heartbeat* or *The Hello Girls* are the dramatic equivalent of red-coupled young women, this is the dramatic equivalent of red-coupled young women. Last night's *Big Women* (Channel 4) is all about how the blanket was thrown away.

Actually, of course, it was all wrong already, as Weldon's story is only too keen to demonstrate. So far the male characters have included Harold, a selfish and manipulative philanderer, and a deeply conventional, patronising Australian pig, a boorish bully called, appropriately enough, "Bull".

It would be tempting to dismiss this as yet another "all men are inadequate sexist bastards" story, except that you know that there

were plenty of men exactly like these around in 1971 and probably still are today.

This is a drama conceived to explore an issue — the rise, triumph and fragmentation of the women's movement — so inevitable there is something formulaic about the range of characters, each representing a type or predicament. And there is a very high slogan quotient, with much of the dialogue consisting of ideological statements.

As a blandly liberal male I remember that period with a certain disinterest, however, and suspect that Weldon has got it absolutely right. Educated middle-class young women discovering their feminist identities, were constantly bashing you over the head with their philosophical positions and explaining how some simple, apparently innocuous, remark betrayed your phallic condition.

Justifiable anger and resentment at millennia of subservience could often come out as bossy straightening, with the worst ticks reserved for "weak sisters". In this respect Daniela Nardini's character is perfectly drawn and acted. The trouble is that Layla is not so very different from Anna, the angry assertive lawyer she played in *This Life*, which makes you wonder how much things have really changed.

Andrea Newman, by contrast, has never bothered her pretty little head with women's issues. In her world women are just as likely to be scheming villains as men, the men exploited victims. But Newman is a popular entertainer, full-stop. There are no pretensions to sociological insights. Where Fay Weldon approaches sexuality grasping a woman's studies manual, Newman just gets busy rum-



Paul Hoggart

magining round the audience's erotic zones. Family relationships and sexuality are uncomfortably and disconcertingly tangled in Newmanland. It is a zone of multiple betrayals, deliberate and accidental, where people are rarely in control of their guilty passions.

In the first episode of *Imogen's Face* (ITV) last night, she has smacked straight into one taboo, in

that the "magically" beautiful Imogen (Samantha Janus) is conducting a fiery adulterous affair with the Lohrberg from the local antique shop, during and immediately after the birth of her twins.

But another, stranger, theme looms on the horizon, since the life of Amanda, Imogen's slightly plainer sister, is dominated by her sense of inferiority. She is obsessed by Imogen and is prey to the kind of dream where you find yourself walking around the set of a 1970s Hammer vampire movie, complete with thin-level puffs of mist. When she looks in the mirror, Imogen's face stares back at her, not her own.

This air of spookiness is accentuated by the eerie little piano motif which keeps popping up to tell Pavlov's viewer that something unearthly is abroad. If this turns out to be just another tale of domestic sexual entanglement, I shall feel decidedly cheated.

The drama hinges on the matter of Imogen's ethereal beauty, and in this respect I have a slight problem with the casting of Samantha Janus. She is extraordinarily striking to behold — those huge eyes, which seem to be able to flash on and off like headlights, those high, wide cheekbones and full, sensual lips. She should be perfect.

The trouble is that I can't get rid of the image of her dire Eurovision Song Contest entry or the amiable Essex bimbo driving the lads mad in *Game On*.

Newman is superb at crawling under the skin of our insecurities about relationships, but, after an intriguing start, I fear this will turn out to be the usual nonsense.

Incidentally, the BBC came in for some stick over the nudity in recent productions like *The Tribe* and *Close Relations* but the leading characters got so hot off it that these dramas, *Imogen's Face* is about sexual relationships, but when the women's consciousness-raising group started casting their knickers ardent in *Big Women* it all seemed jolly odd.

Clearly, nudity is included in the specifications for all new drama commissions, and I don't expect it to end there. "Nudes at Ten" will be followed soon by "Topless Weather" and panelists will get on *Question Time* only if they are prepared to answer some of the questions in the buff, which should at least encourage our politicians to keep fit and healthy.

## BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (8567998)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (54154)  
9.00 All Over the Shop Leslie Grantham, Mickey Hutton, Jean-Cristophe Novelli and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson take part in the shopping panel game hosted by Paul Ross (1) (8401338)

9.30 Kilroy (1) (789118)  
10.00 Meet the Challenge (1) (1) (2963947)

10.25 Style Challenge Classics Highlights introduced by Caryn Franklin and Shauna Lowry from the television show, featuring the Marquise de Bath, bachelors and two opera image-makers. (3018638)

10.55 Short Changes Guide to making a stenciled bin cupboard (1976241)

11.00 News (1) and weather (5418154)

11.05 Around the World in 80 Days: Oriental Express Michael Palin takes a slow boat from Singapore to Hong Kong then makes up for lost time with an express train ride to the cosmopolitan port of Shanghai (1) (7894980)

11.55 News (1) and weather (5680686)

12.00 Every Second Counts Gameshow hosted by Paul Daniels (1) (1) (78780)

12.30pm Neighbours (1) (9121390)

12.55 Well Worth a Visit (8738882)

1.00 News (1) and weather (57241)

1.30 Regional News (1) (1539581)

1.40 Wimbledon 98 Steve Rider presents coverage of the semi-finals in the men's tournament live from Centre Court (1) (8608516) 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (78989)

5.00 News (1) and weather (13)

6.30 Regional News (53)

7.00 Top of the Pops with 911; Ultra; Hanson; Eagle Eye Cherry; Space; and Skinner Baddiel and Brodie (1) (7819)

7.30 Dad's Army Further episodes with the stoic of Watlington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon (1) (1) (440135)

8.05 Jaws II (1978) Sequel to Steven Spielberg's original blockbuster, with Roy Scheider, Lorraine Gary and Murray Hamilton. Teenagers in the Long Island resort of Amity are terrorised by a menacing great white shark. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc (1) (7872822)

10.00 News (1) and weather (55809)

10.30 Harry Enfield and Chums Comedy, starring Henry Enfield, Paul Whitehouse and Kathy Burke (1) (1) (74357)

1.00 Mrs Merton Show The blue-rinsed pensioner with the acid tongue invites another selection of celebrities to join her on the sofa (1) (1) (7861)

11.30 World Cup 98 — Match of the Day Highlights of today's quarter-finals played earlier today between Italy and France, and Brazil and Denmark (28880)

12.30am Nothing But the Night (1972) Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee star in this supernatural thriller about a colonial war goes more than he bargained for while investigating a series of mysterious murders. Also with Diana Dors, Keith Barron and Michael Gambon. Directed by Peter Sealey (1) (1) (84365)

2.00 Weather (8662452)

2.05 BBC News 24

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For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1

7.00am Tainted Teenage Alien Fighters (85747) 7.30am The Simpsons (85748) 8.00am The Simpsons (85749) 8.30am The Simpsons (85750) 9.00am The Simpsons (85751) 9.30am The Simpsons (85752) 10.00am The Simpsons (85753) 10.30am The Simpsons (85754) 11.00am The Simpsons (85755) 11.30am The Simpsons (85756) 12.00am The Simpsons (85757) 12.30am The Simpsons (85758) 1.00am The Simpsons (85759) 1.30am The Simpsons (85760) 1.50am The Simpsons (85761) 2.00am The Simpsons (85762) 2.30am The Simpsons (85763) 3.00am The Simpsons (85764) 3.30am The Simpsons (85765) 4.00am The Simpsons (85766) 4.30am The Simpsons (85767) 5.00am The Simpsons (85768) 5.30am The Simpsons (85769) 6.00am The Simpsons (85770)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (910008) 7.15am Sports Centre (910009) 7.30am Sports Centre (910010) 7.45am Sports Centre (910011) 8.00am Sports Centre (910012) 8.15am Sports Centre (910013) 8.30am Sports Centre (910014) 8.45am Sports Centre (910015) 9.00am Sports Centre (910016) 9.15am Sports Centre (910017) 9.30am Sports Centre (910018) 9.45am Sports Centre (910019) 10.00am Sports Centre (910020) 10.15am Sports Centre (910021) 10.30am Sports Centre (910022) 10.45am Sports Centre (910023) 11.00am Sports Centre (910024) 11.15am Sports Centre (910025) 11.30am Sports Centre (910026) 11.45am Sports Centre (910027) 12.00am Sports Centre (910028) 12.15am Sports Centre (910029) 12.30am Sports Centre (910030) 12.45am Sports Centre (910031) 1.00am Sports Centre (910032) 1.15am Sports Centre (910033) 1.30am Sports Centre (910034) 1.45am Sports Centre (910035) 2.00am Sports Centre (910036) 2.15am Sports Centre (910037) 2.30am Sports Centre (910038) 2.45am Sports Centre (910039) 3.00am Sports Centre (910040) 3.15am Sports Centre (910041) 3.30am Sports Centre (910042) 3.45am Sports Centre (910043) 4.00am Sports Centre (910044) 4.15am Sports Centre (910045) 4.30am Sports Centre (910046) 4.45am Sports Centre (910047) 5.00am Sports Centre (910048) 5.15am Sports Centre (910049) 5.30am Sports Centre (910050) 5.45am Sports Centre (910051) 6.00am Sports Centre (910052)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am The Benefits of Shearwater Forest

## BBC2

6.10am The Learning Zone: Questions of National Identity (8883883)

7.00 Teletubbies (1) (1221864) 7.25 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (1) (3608577) 7.45 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (1) (3608577) 8.10 Willy Fog (1) (1) (2829135) 8.35 The Record (2519338)

8.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon Highlights of yesterday's women's semi-finals with Sue Barker (1) (13970)

10.00 Teletubbies (1) (17135) 10.30 Fiddly Fiddle Bird (1) (133970) 10.40 Joshua Jones (1) (831399)

10.50 International Cricket: Third Test — England v South Africa Live coverage of the opening session on day two at Old Trafford. Commentary by Richie Benaud (1865175)

1.00pm Wimbledon 98 and International Cricket: Live coverage of the best-of-five-sets men's singles semi-finals introduced by Sue Barker and Steve Rider. Cricket. England v South Africa. Live coverage of the afternoon session (30077512)

2.40 News (1) regional news and weather (5301583)

2.45 Wimbledon 98 and International Cricket: Live coverage of the afternoon session from Centre Court and No 1 Court of the men's singles semi-finals at the All-England Club. Cricket. England v South Africa. Further action from the afternoon session on the second day of the Third Test at Old Trafford (48763406)

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## HTV

6.00am GMTV (8572057)  
9.25 This Morning (1) (3054654)  
9.30 Vanessa (1) (128512)  
10.10 This Morning (1) (34882628)  
12.15pm Regional News (2259406)  
12.30 News (1) and weather (78861)

1.00 Surprise Chefs (36303)  
1.30 Home and Away (1) (77932)  
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show

Confrontational chat (1) (2206845)  
2.45 WALKER: What's My Line? (954999)  
2.45 Garden Calendar (954999)

3.15 World Cup 98 Live: Italy v France Bob Wilson introduces coverage of the semi-final between the host nation and Italy from the Stade de France, St Denis (Kick-off is at 3.30) (1) (8448582)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration

5.30 Home and Away (1) (1) (86)

6.00 News (1) and weather (487154)

6.15 Regional News (1) (835425)

6.45 Take Your Pick Game show hosted by Des O'Connor (1) (834786)

7.15 Coronation Street Hayley makes a brave decision. Mandy and Greg get their wires once more (1) (831809)

7.45 World Cup 98 Live: Brazil v Denmark Bob Wilson presents live coverage from Nantes of the second quarter-final between four-times winners and favourites to lift the trophy for an incredible fifth time Brazil, and European side Denmark (Kick-off is at 8.00) (1) (8286241)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration

10.00 News (1) and weather (50777)

10.30 Regional News (360390)

10.40 Fantasy World Cup Live Comic observations with Frank Skinner and David Baddiel and guests Warren Mitchell and Ant and Dec (55580)

11.15 Risky Business (1983) Comedy starring Tom Cruise as a normally well-behaved teenager who goes wild while his parents are out of town. He meets a prostitute and lets her turn his home into a brothel for a night. Also with Rebecca De Mornay and Curtis Armstrong. Directed by Paul Brickman (333222)

1.15am Club@Vision Dance music and club news (362633)

2.00 World Cup 98 Full match coverage of one of today's quarter-finals from St-Denis or Nantes (38558)

3.45 Fantasy World Cup (1) (75013)

4.20 Stash (1507183)

4.45 ITV Nightwatch (568383)

5.00 Coronation Street (1) (48452)

5.30 News (1) (74704)

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## CENTRAL

As HTV West except:  
1.00pm Special Babies (59609)  
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5820796)  
2.45-3.15 Surprise Gardens (954999)  
6.20-6.45 Central News (129628)

11.15 FILM: Teasdale Boss: The Jackie Presser Story (333222)

4.15am Central Jobfinder '98 (9944907)

5.20 Asian Eye (8888817)

As HTV West except:  
12.15pm-12.30 News (2259406)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5820796)

2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (954999)

5.28-5.30 Birthday People (5840357)

6.20-6.45 Westcountry Live (129628)

11.15 FILM: Teasdale Boss: The Jackie Presser Story (333222)

As HTV West except:  
12.15-12.30 News and Weather (2259406)

1.00-1.30 Shortland Trail (59609)

2.45-3.15 The Antiques Trail (954999)

6.20-6.45 Meridian Tonight (129628)

11.15 Midnight Caller (977998)

12.15am Members Only (57094)

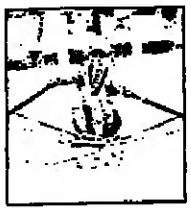
12.45 Live at Jinglejazz (69385)

5.00 Freezone (48452)

As HTV West except:  
1.00pm-1.30 Hope and Gloria (59609)

2.45 And Take This Bus to Cuba (95





## ROWING 44

Young blood wins the day at Henley

# SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 3 1998

## CRICKET 49

South Africa make hay while the sun shines



# Henman confident as friend turns foe

TWO players have recently made a second home of Centre Court at Wimbledon. One will be forcefully evicted today when Tim Henman, the first British semi-finalist in 25 years, opposes Pete Sampras, the champion in search of his fifth Wimbledon title.

That latter detail should govern the nation's expectations of Henman. He is up against a master, a man so imbued with self-belief that his cup is overflowing. Yet the forces propelling Sampras, the ones generating that self-belief, will now conspire against him. The American will be all but friendless among 14,000 spectators desperate to acclaim a British winner. It will be a lonely place for the man accustomed to the crowd's unswerving support.

The friendship shared by both men extended to their practising on adjacent courts yesterday afternoon. There was banter between the camps; even the courtesy of a British partner, Mark Petchey, to spar with Sampras. Yet if Henman

was unaware of the gathering expectation, he will have gleaned it from the hundreds who gathered to watch his knock. He will have sensed the quickening pulses as he ran the gauntlet of autograph hunters, of television requests and of British juniors all straining to glimpse the player they dream of emulating in the years ahead.

Outwardly, Henman remains impervious to it all. "If you had said before the tournament that Pete and I would play in the semi-final, I'd definitely have taken it," he said yesterday. "I don't think I should be scared of him. I have a good chance."

Henman, 23, believes that his task is helped by regular practice sessions with Sampras, 26. Their association has inspired the Briton, who has seen, at first hand, the ingredients obligatory for success at the highest level. "I have noticed how much Pete can dominate a match with his serve, even though

he might be doing other things poorly," Henman said. "He can rely on that to keep him in a match, and that has taught me how important my serve is to my own game."

Henman, the No 12 seed, also implied that regular sightings of Sampras across the net will serve him well. "If you don't practise with a guy like that and you suddenly come up against him," he ventured, "it is inevitable that certain things about him will intimidate you."

Sampras, for his part, felt otherwise. "Our practising together will make no difference," he said. "I like to knock with the same guys but I don't think what happens on the practice grounds is relevant to a match situation."

The outcome will undoubtedly hinge on whether Henman can reproduce the high standard of serving that he summoned against Pat Rafter and, in particular, in his emphatic dismissal of Petr Korda

on Wednesday. There is little between the two in terms of velocity, although Sampras has greater consistency and greater penetration on his second serve.

The champion has won all but two of his 76 service games in this tournament. Remarkably, that equates to a lowering of his ratio 12 months ago, when he dropped just two games from 116. Sampras will also start the fresher man, having spent 4½ hours less on court. This is due, in part, to the fact that he has yet to play a seed.

What statistics do not illustrate, however, is Henman's greater intensity this Wimbledon. He has closed his mind to distractions and applied himself to the task. Within those confines, he remains loose and supple. He spoke yesterday with an assurance characteristic of his deeds on the court. Win or lose, this late-maturing soul appears to have come of age.

Instrumental in this evolution has been Henman's physical trainer, Tim Newenham, a Common-

HOW HENMAN AND SAMPRAS MEASURE UP			
TIM HENMAN (GB)		PETE SAMPRAS (US)	
23	Age	26	
No 12	Seeded	No 1	
6ft 11in	Height	6ft 11in	
11st 10lb	Weight	12st 2lb	
\$2,165,981	Career prize-money	\$32,422,648	
0	Grand slam titles	10	
2	Career singles titles	54	
5	Wimbledon 1998	5	
5	Matches	0	
53%	Sets dropped	55%	
86%	1st serves in	83%	
54	2nd serves in	89	
39	Aces	34	
	Double faults		
	Service speed (mph)		
Max 133, Av 118	1st	Max 133, Av 120	
Max 125, Av 109	2nd	Max 125, Av 109	
TV COVERAGE BBC2 1.00 - 8.30pm (with cricket); BBC1 1.40 - 5.30pm. Highlights: BBC2 9.30pm - 10.28pm			

in 1996 to the eventual champion, Richard Krajicek. It is also feasible that Henman will play the match of his life and still lose. Not for nothing has Sampras topped the world rankings for the past five years.

The second semi-final brings together two players who excel at the grass-court game. Krajicek, of Holland, has capitalised on a favourable draw with the conviction of a former champion. The No 9 seed has dropped just one set and found a rich vein of form. That, however, may not be enough to topple Goran Ivanisevic, twice a Wimbledon finalist.

Krajicek's record against left-handed opponents is poor and Ivanisevic, the No 15 seed from Croatia, has cast a spell over the Dutchman. He has won their past eight encounters, the last three by tie-breaks in the decisive set. With tie-breaks not used to settle matches at Wimbledon, the two could be hammering away at each other for hours.

## Novotna in full cry to claim final chance

By ALIX RAMSAY

THIRD time lucky or unlucky thirteenth, the choice is Jana Novotna's. Yesterday, she earned herself a place in her third Wimbledon final, at her thirteenth attempt, by beating the world No 1 and defending champion, Martina Hingis, 6-4, 6-4. It has given Novotna her best, and most probably last, chance to win the one grand-slam title that ought to be hers by right.

Tomorrow at 2pm she will step on to the Centre Court to face Nathalie Tauziat, of France, the No 16 seed, and what happens is for Novotna to dictate. Hingis reckons that Novotna should win it: she has beaten the champion, she has the experience of playing in a final, and "she deserves it, she's the better player".

Novotna has more experi-

ence than any player would wish to take with them into such a match. In 1993 she had a point for a 5-1 lead in the third set against Steffi Graf when it all went horribly and tearfully wrong. Graf thought that she was beaten until she saw Novotna quiver, then shake, then fall apart. Then Novotna burst into tears and sobbed on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder, and everyone loved her for it. It took several years before she would admit that she had choked, that she had wanted the title too much.

Last year, in the absence of Graf and clearly the best grass-court player in the tournament, she pulled a stomach muscle a couple of days before the final, and although she came out of the traps like a greyhound and demolished

Hingis in the opening games, she could not maintain it. She simply ran out of puff, which gave Hingis a chance to regroup and formulate a new game-plan. The disappointment was plain, even if there were no tears.

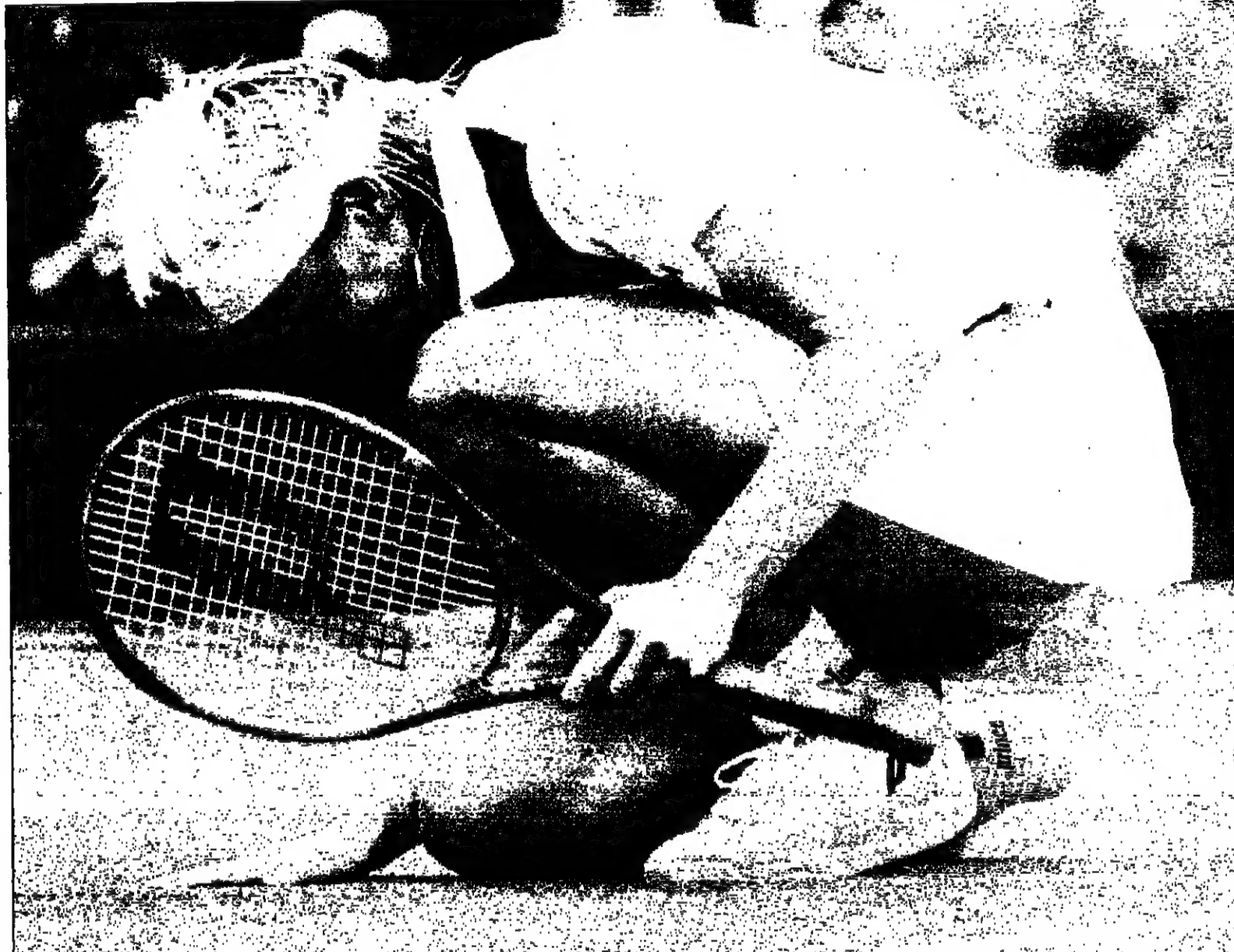
Yesterday she was not to be outdone again. There was no choking and no lung-bursting sprint start. Instead, there was just an awful lot of thought, a good deal of courage and some stunning tennis. A team talk with her coach, Hana Mandlikova, about the final of the previous year had established what went wrong and where. She was determined not to let it happen again.

Hingis admitted that, as she walked on court, she was not sure who was going to win, and even though she got off to an impressive start — an early break, a 3-0 lead and three break points — there were signs that, once Novotna got her game going, all was not well in the Hingis camp.

For a veteran of 29, Novotna ran herself ragged to put pressure on her teenage opponent. Using her trademark sliced backhand, she gave Hingis no chance to get a clean swipe at the ball and time and again the Hingis backhand, a shot that has torn many an opponent to shreds, was sent wide or long. There were points so well constructed by both women that you could almost hear them thinking. And, whenever she could, Novotna came to the net, which is where she rules the roost.

By the second set, Hingis had managed to keep Novotna at the back of the court for long spells, and after an early exchange of breaks it was level pegging. If Novotna came forward, Hingis lobbed, but the No 3 seed is not daft and began to see the threat coming. Flinging herself at high backhand volleys, she broke for the last time in the ninth game and served out to love. So much for the reputation of Novotna the choker.

Hingis was amazed by the



Novotna, twice a beaten finalist, sinks to her knees after defeating Hingis, the defending champion, in straight sets in their semi-final yesterday

ability of her doubles partner to put the disappointments of last year behind her. "I would never think after last year that she's going to come back again and have this great grand-slam here at Wimbledon, but she's a great player on grass," she said, still smiling. As for Novotna, she has been here before and she is taking nothing for granted.

"I didn't surprise myself," the Czech said. "I think I know myself very well now, and I know what I am doing. I am a year older, but I feel so much better, I feel so much younger. But Nathalie Tauziat is a very dangerous player, we play very similar games and our tennis is based on experience. I think every time you get to the final you have a pretty good chance of winning, and let's just hope that what the Duchess of Kent said last year is right. She said: 'Third time lucky, so here I am.'"

Tauziat, 30, came through a rollercoaster ride of a semi-final to beat Natasha Zvereva

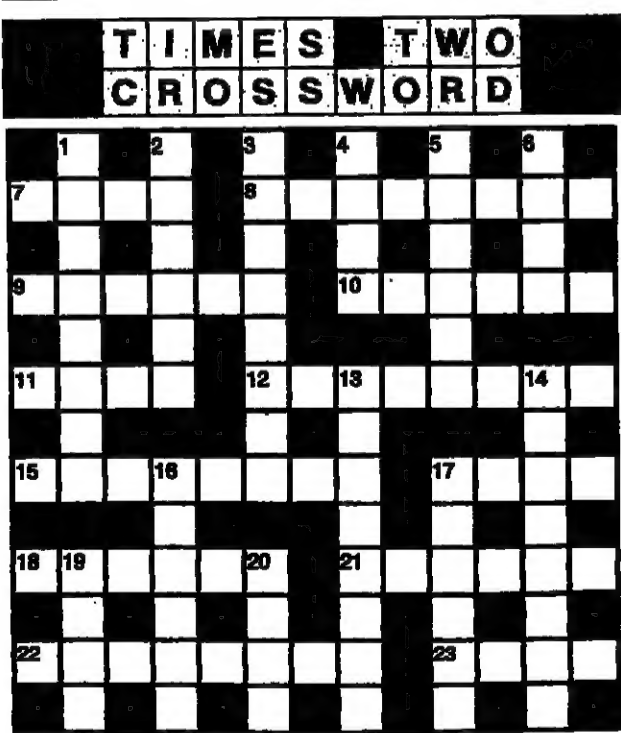


The tearful scene after Novotna's defeat by Graf in 1993

1-6, 7-6, 6-3. It had all looked to be over after the first 20 minutes as the French No 3 appeared stage-struck and unable to do anything right. But early in the second set, after another dreadful error, she let out a roar of frustration and suddenly left her nerves behind.

The match was won and lost in the tie-break. Zvereva could only take one point and, as the set slipped from her grasp, her spirit was broken and the run that taken her past Graf and Monica Seles was over.

Simon Barnes, page 50  
Results, page 50



No 1448

### ACROSS

- 7 US alliance v USSR (abbr.) (4)
- 8 Judgment court (8)
- 9 Regional dialect (6)
- 10 Servile dependant (6)
- 11 Cautious (4)
- 12 Missionary efforts (8)
- 15 Albert — Nobel physicist (8)
- 17 Embittered; infertile (land) (4)
- 18 Shortage (6)
- 21 Lag behind (6)
- 22 Husband of Minnehaha (Longfellow) (8)
- 23 A headland: a Loch (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Dancer. WW1 German spy (4,4)
- 2 One without importance (6)
- 3 Ear-viewing implement (8)
- 4 Tablet (4)
- 5 Savoury tart (6)
- 6 A smoother: his progress, Hogarth (4)
- 13 Baffled by music (4-4)
- 14 Ungracious (8)
- 16 Canny (6)
- 17 Seeding: sounds like nee-dlework (6)
- 19 — Morecambe, comedian (4)
- 20 Loathe (4)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1447

- ACROSS: 1 Backer 4 Null 9 Flora 10 Punster  
11 Tintal 12 Apron 13 Cap and bells 17 Album  
19 Stemmed 22 Sangria 23 Norma 24 Miss 25 Tickle  
DOWN: 1 Befit 2 Croatia 3 E-mail 5 Utter 6 Luring  
7 Aphrodisiac 8 Engage 14 Admirer 15 Lamarck  
16 Ransom 18 Banns 20 Ennui 21 Drape

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Tauziat beats the Centre Court grass in joy after claiming a ground-breaking place in the singles final

THE WORLD CUP COVERAGE <http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>  
Italy France, 3.30 (ITV), Brazil Denmark, 8.00 (ITV)

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